

Chad again warns Libya

N'DJAMENA (R) — Chad issued a "second warning" to Libya on Tuesday over alleged violations of its air space by the Libyan air force, despite a ceasefire the two countries agreed on Friday. A military high command statement complained of repeated violations of Chad's air space, the latest on Monday when Libyan warplanes flew over the towns of AT1, in central Chad, and Oumtenga Kébi and Bardai, in the north. The statement said that earlier in the day Libyan planes had flown over the eastern town of Abche, where French military engineers are completing a new airbase, as well as the northern localities of Zouar and Wour. The high command issued a similar complaint on Monday through the Chad embassy in Paris and Tuesday's statement was described as "a second warning" to Libya. It did not say what action Chad planned to take if the alleged violations continued. Chad and Libya agreed on Friday to an Organisation of African Unity (OAU) request for a ceasefire after four weeks of bitter fighting for control of a border stretch of land known as the Aouzou Strip.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
جوردان تايمز يومية سياسية مستقلة عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية، الراي

Al Shiraa editor said recovering

BEIRUT (AP) — Lebanese journalist Hassan Sabra, 38, shot by a motorcycle gunman on Monday, was removed from the intensive care unit in Beirut's American University Hospital and reported making "steady progress." A hospital spokesman said Mr. Sabra, who first disclosed the secret U.S. arms sales to Iran last November, "will remain at the hospital for a while. But the threat that he might lose his sight has receded." The spokesman, who declined to be named, said Mr. Sabra's 12-year-old daughter Nassrine, who suffered a minor chest wound in the attack, was also "doing fine." Police and Syrian troops continued an investigation into the attempted assassination. Mr. Sabra, reputed to have close links with a radical faction within the Iranian regime, has made many enemies by his reporting in his Al Shiraa weekly magazine on Iranian politics and foreign hostages kidnapped in Lebanon. Mr. Sabra is known to have close ties with Ayatollah Hussein Montazeri, designated successor to Iran's Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini. Ayatollah Montazeri, according to one of Mr. Sabra's reports on Iran, heads a militant wing within the regime which opposes any deals with the United States.

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Regent sends good wishes to Mexico

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, sent a telegram to Mexican President Miguel de la Madrid Houtado, congratulating him on the occasion of Mexico's National Day and extending best wishes for further development and prosperity for Mexico and its people.

Saudi crown prince to visit U.S.

WASHINGTON (R) — Saudi Arabian Crown Prince Abdullah bin Abdul Aziz will pay a three-day visit to Washington next month at the invitation of Vice-President George Bush, the State Department announced on Tuesday. Spokesman Charles Redman gave no details of the agenda for the talks from Oct. 18-21 that will include a session with Secretary of State George Shultz. The most likely topics for discussion are a proposed \$1 billion sale of U.S. arms to Saudi Arabia and the Iran-Iraq war.

U.S. seeks ban on Libyan planes with 'mines for Iran'

ANKARA (R) — The United States has asked Turkey not to allow Libyan planes to enter its airspace if they are taking mines to Iran, a Foreign Ministry source said on Tuesday. But the source said there was no substantial evidence to presume that Libyan aircraft overflying Turkey were carrying mines. The source said Turkey followed international flight rules and regarded the content declarations of individual planes as true. "U.S. aircraft which carried equipment to Iran made use of Turkish airspace a number of times," he added.

2 Soviet specialists missing in Libya

MOSCOW (AP) — Two Soviet specialists who had been on a military mission in Libya have been reported missing. Foreign Ministry spokesman Boris D. Pyadyshev said Tuesday. Pyadyshev did not give the identities of the missing servicemen or disclose details of their mission.

Iraqi soldiers enter Turkey

DIYARBAKIR, Turkey (R) — Eleven Iraqi soldiers crossed into southeast Turkey during a battle with pro-Iranian Kurdish guerrillas in northern Iraq on Tuesday, local officials said. They said the troops entered the village of Uzunlu, about 10 kilometres north of the border. They were expected to be returned to Iraq.

Prague expels 52 Lebanese

PRAGUE (AP) — Czechoslovakia expelled 52 mostly destitute Lebanese citizens last week because they held forged passports, the Communist Party newspaper Rude Pravo said Tuesday. However, a Lebanese diplomat said the expelled Lebanese in general had valid passports but no visas. Defecting the Czechoslovak action last Thursday following what it called hostile reports in the Lebanese press, Rude Pravo said the Lebanese were flown to Beirut after authorities established they had stayed illegally in Prague for several weeks.

Regent: Iranian-Israeli goals pose gravest threat to Arabs

Crown Prince, opening First Arab Strategic Conference, warns against convergence of Iranian and Israeli objectives
Prince Hassan presents comprehensive review of Arab history and present situation

By a Jordan Times Staff Writer

HIS ROYAL Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, warned on Tuesday against the convergence of Iranian and Israeli objectives in dividing the Arab World and called on Arabs to translate talk about the concept of collective security into a unified strategic stand and joint action.

In an address to the First Arab Strategic Conference which opened at the University of Jordan on Tuesday, the Crown Prince said Iran's and Israel's objectives meet at one important point: to dismember the Arab region so that they can achieve their strategic ambitions in the area. He said that the Iranian regime was seeking to expand its sphere of influence through usurping Arab wealth in the

name of Islam, and Israel, for its part, was trying to impose hegemony on the region in the name of serving Western interests. Both Iran and Israel constitute a common danger which is increasing in intensity with the growing increase in the foreign power intervention in the Arab region, Prince Hassan said, adding that the Arabs themselves

(Continued on page 5)



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, on Tuesday opens the First Arab Strategic Conference (Petra photo)

U.N. chief ends Gulf mission with little sign of success

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar left for New York Tuesday, concluding an Iran-Iraq peace mission during which Baghdad called for international sanctions against Iran and Tehran insisted that Iraq be condemned as "the aggressor."

The U.N. chief took off from Baghdad airport aboard a private jet that was expected to stop in Europe, most likely Paris, en route to New York, U.N. sources said.

The secretary general refused to comment on the outcome of his talks in the two capitals, but told reporters in Baghdad: "I didn't arrive empty-handed — I came with an outline of a plan for the implementation of the (U.N. ceasefire) resolution which I have discussed in detail with both Iran and Iraq."

Mr. Perez de Cuellar is expected to report back to the U.N. Security Council soon after returning to New York on Wednesday.

Diplomats said there was no sign that he succeeded on the first

leg of his mission in getting Iran to back down on its key demand that Iraq be branded "the aggressor" in the conflict.

And as the U.N. chief boarded his plane at Baghdad airport, Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz told journalists: "Iran is the aggressor in this conflict... Iran started the war... Iran's intransigence insisted on the continuation of the war for seven years."

"If anyone is going to be punished for that, it is the Iranian regime."

"We welcomed Security Council Resolution 598 not because we don't have observations on it, not because we don't have our points of view about this or that element in it, but because we accepted it as a binding resolution taken by the authority in this world which is in charge of peace and order," Mr. Aziz said.

He stressed Iraq would reject any changes in the resolution and said: "We hope the Security Council will abide by its own resolution, its spirit and its sequence."

Mr. Aziz, who met twice with

Mr. Perez de Cuellar during the latter's two-day visit, stay in Baghdad, said: "We believe the secretary general knows this fact and we hope... the Security Council will not waste any time in reaching and drawing the right conclusion about the situation and then head towards the second stage." That was a reference to a call for the punishment of any side that fails to abide by the ceasefire call.

Iraqi President Saddam Hussein, quoted by the Iraqi News Agency (INA), told the U.N. chief on Monday that his mission to the region had been necessary to "expose the real position of the Iranian regime towards the U.N. resolution."

He rebutted Tehran's charges that Baghdad had started the war.

The Iraqi president told Mr. Perez de Cuellar: "All facts prove — by tangible evidence — that the Iranian regime started aggression and war."

In Monday's talks, Iraq drove

Washington optimistic of arms embargo on Iran

WASHINGTON (R) — The United States is optimistic the U.N. Security Council will agree to a global arms embargo against Iran if Tehran rejects a ceasefire in its war with Iraq, a U.S. official told Congress on Tuesday.

Assistant Secretary of State Richard Murphy, in testimony before the House of Representatives' Foreign Subcommittee on Europe and the Middle East, said the Reagan administration was awaiting a report by U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar on his trip to Iran and Iraq to secure a ceasefire.

Mr. Perez de Cuellar is scheduled to tell the Security Council on Thursday whether Tehran will agree to a ceasefire called for in the July 20 Security Council Resolution 598 to end the seven-year-old Gulf war. Iraq has said it would stop fighting if Iran agrees to do so.

"If the secretary-general returns without acceptance of Resolution 598 by Tehran, I am optimistic the Security Council will move to approve the second resolution," Mr. Murphy said.

To win an arms embargo, the four other permanent members of the Security Council — Britain, France, China and the Soviet Union — must agree.

Mr. Murphy said Britain and France would go along without hesitation and there were "good prospects" China would too.

He said the U.S. had worked effectively with Moscow on the first resolution and he expected Soviet support for an arms embargo.

Despite moves towards an arms embargo, Mr. Murphy said the United States would not immediately stop U.S.-Iranian trade. Five per cent of U.S. oil imports come from Iran, he said.

Mr. Murphy said the U.S. operation to protect Kuwaiti vessels in the Gulf has demonstrated to Washington's Arab friends in the region that the United States has "staying power."

Relations between Washington and Arab states were harmed by the disclosures that the United States secretly sold arms to Iran in a bid to free Americans being held hostage by pro-Iranian groups in Lebanon, while urging other nations to isolate Tehran on the grounds that it is a "terrorist" state.

King meets Bahraini leader

LONDON (Agencies) — His Majesty King Hussein on Tuesday received at his residence in London the crown prince and defence minister of Bahrain, Sheikh Hamad bin Isa Al Thani.

The Jordan News Agency, Petra, did not give any details of the talks the King had with Sheikh Hamad but it was expected that the latest developments in the Iran-Iraq war and the Middle East situation figured prominently in the discussions.

The meeting was attended by Armed Forces Commander-in-Chief Field Marshal Shurif Zaid bin Shaker and the Bahraini ministers of social development and foreign affairs.

The King is on a private visit to Britain. He held talks with British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher on Friday on the Iran-Iraq war and the Middle East situation.

Sheikh Hamad is expected to hold talks with British officials later this week.

Britain backs arms embargo

Meanwhile, British Foreign Secretary Sir Geoffrey Howe and Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad Al Sabah held talks on Tuesday, Mr. Howe assured Sheikh Sabah of Britain's support for an arms embargo on the party which refuses to accept the U.N. Security Council's July

20 resolution calling for an immediate ceasefire in the Gulf war.

A Foreign Office spokesman said Mr. Howe and Sheikh Sabah agreed that the U.N. Security Council should take prompt action to enforce compliance of its July 20 call in the Gulf war if hostilities continued.

He said Mr. Howe and Sheikh Sabah met for an hour to discuss the Gulf situation and U.N. Secretary-General Perez de Cuellar's peace mission to the region.

"They agreed on the urgent need to secure implementation of Resolution 598 and if necessary to move promptly to a second resolution to enforce compliance," the spokesman said.

Masri: Next step in efforts for Gulf peace is Arab-U.S. talks

By Salameh B. Ne'matt
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Foreign Minister Taher Al Masri said Tuesday that the next step in diplomatic efforts towards finding a peaceful settlement to the Iran-Iraq war was a scheduled meeting later this month between a seven-member Arab delegation and U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz.

Mr. Masri, who returned home earlier in the day after official visits in China and South Korea, said the Arab team, set up by the Arab League to seek an end to the seven-year-old Gulf war, would also hold talks with representatives of the other four members of the U.N. Security Council. Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Saud Al Faisal will head the delegation to the meetings in the U.S.

Mr. Masri, who led an Arab team on a similar mission to Peking, told the Jordan Times



Taher Al Masri that the delegation's talks with Chinese leaders were "positive and successful." He hinted that Peking was ready to support an international arms embargo on arms sales to Iran if Tehran refused to

accept the Security Council's July 20 resolution calling for an immediate ceasefire in the war. Reports quoting informed sources in Peking said Tuesday that China was reappraising its policy of selling arms to Iran and was discouraging the Iranians from using Chinese-made Silkworm missiles against shipping in the Gulf (See page 2).

Mr. Masri, in a telephone interview with the Jordan Times, said that in talks with Chinese officials, "we concluded China is very well aware of the dangers in the Gulf from the continuation of the war." However, he added, the Chinese "would like to give (U.N. Secretary General Javier) Perez de Cuellar a chance to try to achieve an acceptance of Resolution 598."

Mr. Perez de Cuellar left Iraq on Tuesday among reports that his peace mission to Tehran and

(Continued on page 5)

Israeli soldiers shoot and kill 12-year-old Balata boy

Another wounded in Israeli firing at Sabra and Shatila massacre protesters

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Israeli soldiers shot dead a Palestinian boy and wounded another on Tuesday during Palestinian protests marking the fifth anniversary of the massacre of Palestinians in two refugee camps in Beirut.

An Israeli military spokesman said Israeli troops clashed with Palestinian protesters at the Balata refugee camp near Nablus and a 12-year-old boy was shot dead while another A b was wounded.

The clashes occurred while the Israeli defence minister, Yitzhak Rabin, toured Nablus, the largest town in the occupied West Bank.

Several hours later, dozens of Israeli soldiers patrolled the streets of Nablus and were seen stopping and questioning Arab motorists.

Palestinian sources quoted by Reuter said the two Palesti-

nians were shot during separate demonstrations marking the anniversary of the massacre of hundreds of Palestinians by Israeli-backed Lebanese militiamen in the Sabra and Shatila camps.

The killings occurred Sept. 16, 1982 shortly after Israeli troops occupied the Beirut area following its invasion of Lebanon.

The Palestine Press Service, which monitors news in the occupied territories, identified the youngster shot dead on Tuesday as Hussein Mohammad Shweh.

An Israeli official acknowledged that soldiers fired at stone-throwing protesters in two separate incidents at the camp.

Balata, a shantytown of stone and cement homes, housing to 15,000 refugees, was surrounded by Israeli soldiers throughout Tuesday.

About 30 weeping women gathered in one narrow courtyard late Tuesday to mourn the death of Hussein Mohammad Hamdan, a seventh grade student.

"They shot him twice in his heart and head as he was coming home from school," Hussein's mother, Suheila, 39, told AP as she wept, clutching a photograph of the boy.

"I want to shoot them, I want to kill them," Mrs. Hamdan said of the Israelis.

As she spoke, gunfire resounded in the camp and people ran for cover while at the end of an alleyway, about 30 soldiers confronted a group of 50 boys with stones.

The military official reported four clashes in the camp during which hundreds of Palestinians stoned soldiers and blocked roads with rocks and burning garbage.

Shevardnadze holds talks with U.S. leaders, says summit is necessary

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze conferred with President Ronald Reagan on Tuesday and said he did not bring a proposed date for a superpower summit but that "a summit is necessary."

Mr. Shevardnadze noted that he carried a letter for Mr. Reagan from Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev. "There are good things in that letter," he said, without elaboration.

Mr. Reagan and Mr. Shevardnadze, accompanied by translators and Secretary of State George P. Shultz, met in the Oval Office and then adjourned to the Rose Garden for the signing of an agreement to establish "nuclear risk reduction centres" in the two capitals to lessen the chance of accidental war.

The president declined to say whether any progress was made on arms control or other subjects

in the first round of talks between Mr. Shultz and Mr. Shevardnadze. "We're just beginning," the president said, seated next to the Soviet minister in the Oval Office.

Mr. Shevardnadze declined to tell reporters what was in the letter from Mr. Gorbachev. "If I tell you, what shall I tell the president?" he said.

Asked if it proposed a summit date, he said, "no date, but a summit is necessary."

Earlier, after nearly three hours of discussions at the State Department, Mr. Shultz said: "We had a very good meeting, between the minister and I, thorough and constructive."

Mr. Shultz said the ministers had identified a number of issues, which he did not specify, for their advisers to work on.

Mr. Shevardnadze, echoing an apparent upbeat mood, joked that he and Mr. Shultz, after meeting privately, had called the U.S. and Soviet delegations together in the regal State Department reception room "in order to tell you that the ministers have decided everything."

Later, as Mr. Shevardnadze left the State Department for the meeting with Mr. Reagan, a Soviet official told reporters the mood of the talks was better than the Soviet side expected on Monday, when they expressed pessimism about prospects for reaching an early agreement on scrapping intermediate-range nuclear forces (INF).

However, there were signs of flexibility in the U.S. effort to nail down an INF treaty

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China reportedly would back Iran arms embargo

PEKING (Agencies) — China would support a United Nations-sponsored ban on arms sales to Iran if Tehran refused to comply with the U.N. resolution calling for a ceasefire in the Iran-Iraq war, informed foreign sources said on Tuesday.

The sources, who spoke on the condition they were not identified, said China was playing an unusually active role in urging Iran and Iraq to stop their seven-year war.

They said China a few months ago reappraised what they alleged was its policy of selling arms to Iran.

Arms shipments agreed under earlier contracts had been delivered to Iran since then but the sources said they were not aware of China committing itself to new deals.

China has repeatedly denied official U.S. allegations that it supplied arms to Tehran, including anti-ship Silkworm missiles, saying it was strictly neutral.

The July 20 ceasefire resolution passed by the U.N. Security Council, which includes China, holds out the threat of sanctions for non-compliance by either party.

If Iran flatly refused to obey the ceasefire call then China would back a further resolution on an arms embargo, the sources said.

U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar ended talks with Iraqi leaders on Tuesday. But Western diplomats in the region said his peace mission to Tehran and Baghdad did not appear to have produced a breakthrough.

Iraq called on the U.N. to impose an arms embargo on Iran,

which has so far neither officially rejected nor accepted the ceasefire resolution.

Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Ali Mohammad Besharati told reporters in Peking last week that Iran had captured Chinese missiles from Iraq.

The sources said China had supplied Iraq with large quantities of weapons in the early stages of the war but doubted that Iran could have captured Silkworm missiles.

Diplomats said that China, as one of five permanent members of the U.N. Security Council, was being drawn into playing a more prominent role in the Gulf.

High-level delegations from Iran and Iraq came to Peking simultaneously last week and China's Deputy Foreign Minister Qi Huaiyuan visited Tehran and Baghdad last month.

China is reconsidering its policy of selling arms to Iran and appears to be trying to discourage Iran from using Chinese-made missiles against U.S. ships in the Gulf, sources said Tuesday.

The sources, speaking on condition they were not identified, said China began rethinking its policy of selling arms to Iran several months ago.

They said that under long-term contracts, Chinese arms are still flowing to Iran, but that they were not aware of any new contracts.

The sources said there were indications the Chinese had told Iran that firing Chinese-made Silkworm missiles at U.S. ships in the Gulf would be undesirable.

Diplomats said China was spurred into action partly out of concern that the Soviet Union was itself playing a greater role there.

China said on Tuesday that the Soviet Union was improving its relations with Iran but fueling tension by stepping up its military presence in the Gulf.

In a commentary headlined "Soviets turn Gulf crisis to diplomatic advantage," the official New China News Agency quoted "the world media" as saying Moscow had recently gained much influence in the area.

"Already having a rather comfortable relationship with Iraq, the Soviets now have improved relations with Iran," the agency said, quoting uncorroborated reports as saying Moscow and Tehran had agreed to export Iranian oil through the Black Sea.

While the United States was provoking direct confrontation with Iran by reflagging and escorting Kuwaiti tankers in the Gulf, Moscow had stepped up efforts to play an active role in mediating between Iran and Iraq, the agency said.

But concentration of the superpowers' military forces in the Gulf was making the area increasingly tense, it said in the commentary.

Meanwhile an Iranian leader said on Tuesday that an embargo on arms sales to Iran would not affect its ability to pursue the war with Iraq, Tehran Radio reported.

Last Friday he joined a meeting at which Palestinian commando factions and Shi'ite Muslim Lebanese agreed to end a three-year feud at refugee camps in Beirut and the South.

Dr. Bizri's last held ministerial rank was in 1981 when he was responsible for health.

A rocket fired at his villa last year destroyed a wall but caused no casualties.

In a separate development seven members of one family and another child died on Monday when a building under construction collapsed on their home in the southern port of Tyre, police said on Tuesday.

U.N. peacekeeping troops stationed nearby helped Lebanese emergency teams dig through the rubble after the three-storey building crashed onto the adjacent house.

Lebanese politician unharmed in Sidon bomb blast

SIDON, Lebanon (R) — A bomb ripped through the home of a Lebanese parliamentarian in South Lebanon on Tuesday, wounding three people but leaving him unharmed, police said.

They told Reuters that politicians Nazih Bizri escaped unhurt when the blast tore down a balcony, demolished a sitting room wall and smashed Dr. Bizri's clinic.

Dr. Bizri, a 72-year-old physician, was in his first-floor surgery when the bomb exploded.

"Thank God the damage was material and I can continue serving this country," he said to reporters as he stumbled out of the smoke-shrouded rubble.

Dr. Bizri, a Sunni Muslim, heads a council of political parties and local militias in this port city.

He played an important role in rallying resistance to the Israeli invasion in 1982.

Dr. Bizri, who had held ministerial rank under several governments, is known as a pro-Syrian moderate opposed to Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat's attempts to rebuild his strength in Lebanon.

Last Friday he joined a meeting at which Palestinian commando factions and Shi'ite Muslim Lebanese agreed to end a three-year feud at refugee camps in Beirut and the South.

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Gulf missile threat 'fades'

ABOARD THE U.S.S. GUADALCANAL (R) — Iran has cut back the threat to shipping posed by its Chinese-made Silkworm missiles in the Strait of Hormuz, reducing the time U.S. warships in the Gulf must spend on full alert, military sources said.

The unidentified U.S. military sources, cited in a pool report on Monday, did not give details about the apparent reduction in Iran's missile threat to American ships escorting reflagged Kuwaiti tankers in the Gulf.

Aboard the 18,000-tonne beluga carrier Guadalcanal, the crew went to full alert or battle stations for three hours, far less than has been customary for warships making the dangerous transit through the strait.

The convoy of two tankers joined by a U.S. navy fuel tanker and escorted by three warships including the Guadalcanal cleared the 180-kilometre strait in a lingering twilight without any overt signs of Iranian aggression.

The Guadalcanal's crew were at full alert in combat gear and at



USS Guadalcanal

battle stations for eight hours during the carrier's entry into the Gulf through the strait in mid-August.

Minesweeper helicopters off the Guadalcanal were at work on Monday as the convoy neared the strait, deploying "streaming gear" designed to cut submerged mines loose from their moorings while hovering at low level above the water.

The minesweeping was being done not for the southbound convoy out of the Gulf but for a northbound group, including the disabled supertanker Bridgeton, which entered the Gulf through the strait and passed southbound convoy at mid-morning.

The southern Gulf waters were exceptionally busy with shipping as the two convoys passed each other about 1,500 yards.

The Iranian ship was identified by U.S. officers aboard the

Minesweeper helicopters worked nearby and other helicopters flew protective cover, while an Iranian Navy supply ship observed from a discreet distance.

The Bridgeton was heading for Dubai in the United Arab Emirates for repairs to its hull, damaged by a mine during the first northbound convoy on July 24.

Maj. Bruce "Bugs" Moran, pilot of a Marine CH-46 transport helicopter, said an Iranian vessel sent a message asking Maj. Moran to identify himself and "remain five miles (eight kilometres) away."

"I said: 'Iranian warship, you are approaching an American convoy, please change course,' and he did," Maj. Moran said.

The Iranian ship was identified by U.S. officers aboard the

Guadalcanal as the Bushehr, a large navy cargo and supply vessel. Iranian vessels have routinely monitored the movements of U.S. convoys of Kuwaiti tankers sailing under the U.S. flag.

Captain Skip Dirren, commander of the Guadalcanal, said it was one of the busiest days he has seen in the Gulf, with not only the two U.S. Navy convoys, but numerous other tankers on the move.

"It's frequently active down here, but this is very unusual," Capt. Dirren said.

The Guadalcanal's bridge was kept busy all Monday morning with a string of contacts with small vessels and various aircraft.

Two Iranian F-4 Phantom jets were detected airborne at one point, but caused no increased alert aboard the American ships.

Ethiopia's constitutional moves entrench 'old guard'

By Rory Channing
Reuters

ADDIS ABABA — Ethiopia's move from military to civil rule, feted at mass celebrations on Sunday, has entrenched the military and Communist Party "old guard" in power, Western diplomats say.

The birth of the New Marxist-style "People's Democratic Republic" also gives the rulers credentials of legitimacy they

have lacked since they toppled Emperor Haile Selassie in 1974, the diplomats say.

Military leader Mengistu Haile Mariam, who had been ruling by decree, was sworn in last Thursday as first president of the republic.

The move made him commander-in-chief of the armed forces and enabled him to appoint, subject to parliamentary approval, the cabinet and top members of

the judiciary.

The country's new parliament, which voted Mengistu head of state at its inaugural session last week, also elected him president of the 24-member State Council, which will oversee state affairs.

Mengistu remains secretary-general of the powerful Communist Workers' Party of Ethiopia (WPE), the country's only political party.

One Western diplomat in Addis Ababa said the government's move to "a heavier concentration of power" than any leader in other Marxist states in Africa — or much of Eastern Europe, for that matter.

German hostages had no clue about kidnap demands

BONN (R) — Two West German hostages seized in Beirut last January spent eight months together but had no clue about their kidnappers' demands, freed captive Alfred Schmidt was quoted as saying on Tuesday.

Schmidt, giving the first description of his ordeal since his release a week ago, told the magazine Quick that he and fellow hostage Rudolf Cordes realised they were pawns — but had no idea who was playing the game.

"Our guards never told us why we were kidnapped or anything about the negotiations for our release. We also knew nothing about the Hamadei case," Schmidt said.

Schmidt and Cordes were seized days after police in Frankfurt arrested Lebanese Mohammed Ali Hamadei, accused of taking part in the 1985 hijacking to Beirut of a U.S. airliner in which one American was killed.

Hamadei is to face trial in West Germany for murder and air piracy. Bonn refused a request by the United States to extradite him there.

The kidnappers, believed by militia sources to be close to the Iranian-backed Shi'ite Hizbollah (Party of God), denied Hamadei's release from jail in return for freeing the Germans.

Schmidt, an engineer for the West German Siemens electronics firm, said they were never maltreated by their captors.

"We found out quickly that these people had no negative feelings towards us," he said. "We were simply harter items, not enemies."

"Rudolf Cordes and I were given no newspapers and we couldn't listen to the radio or watch television," Schmidt added in the interview conducted immediately after he was banded over to the West German ambassador in Damascus on Sept. 7.

NEWS ANALYSIS

In a seven-hour address last Wednesday, tracing the course of military rule in Ethiopia, Mengistu stressed the need to step up the Socialist revolution.

His naming of many former top aides to senior positions in the new hierarchy reflected this commitment, the diplomats said.

"There's a change to the trappings of power but it is hard to see any real change in policies," a senior envoy said.

The state council includes several members of the WPE's 11-member politburo.

The 20-man cabinet includes all but six of the 23 outgoing ministers but Information Minister Feleke Gedle Giorgis, a former foreign minister, is believed to have been axed after a warning career.

A talking point among diplomats is the status of pro-Moscow politburo member Legesse

Asfaw, whose name did not appear on the list of top government appointments.

Legesse has played a key part in directing the government's controversial resettlement policies, aimed at improving the face of rural Ethiopia and at countering the threat of recurring drought and famine.

More than eight million peasants have been regrouped in new villages designed to promote collective farming under the policy, criticised by Western states as tantamount to forcibly removing villagers from their homes.

A question mark hangs over the effectiveness of the parliament. Described in the constitution as "the supreme organ of state power," it ended its first four-day session on Saturday.

The 515 members in the 335-seat chamber appeared overawed, diplomats said, and acted as little more than a rubber stamp for decisions taken by the top Ethiopian leaders.

The parliament, dominated by WPE members but including a scattering of religious leaders, was elected in June in the first national election since the 1974 revolution.

Ethiopia has more than 80 different ethnic peoples, including Eritreans and Tigrayans in the north, where rebel secessionist movements are at war with government forces.

Diplomats say most, if not all, the 22 seats left vacant at last week's session of parliament appeared to have been set aside for parts of the two troubled regions, where the authorities were unable to conduct polls.

'Iran to free 30,000 Jews for arms aid'

ANKARA — Some 30,000 Jews will be allowed to leave Iran via Turkey in the next few months, the English-language Turkish Daily News has said.

The report followed one by the British Sunday newspaper The Observer to the effect that Israel had agreed to supply military aid to Iran in exchange for the Jews.

The Turkish Daily News said that Iran's ambassador to Turkey, Mansoub Mottaki, had been involved in related negotiations in various capitals. He had made several trips to Israel, while Israeli officials had gone to Iran.

The Jews would leave Iran by road and air for Turkey, the paper said, adding that a Jewish

businessman from Istanbul had set up a reception centre for them.

The Observer said Sunday that Iranian and Israeli officials met secretly in Europe last month to discuss a plan to allow thousands of Jews to emigrate from Iran in exchange for Israeli military aid to Tehran — AFP.

The United States has expressed unhappiness that Libya has been nominated to chair a General Assembly committee dealing with legal issues including terrorism.

Under the U.S. system of regional rotation, Libya was nominated in July by the African states.

Among the items cited in the U.S. chronology were Col. Qadhafi's alleged material support for the outlawed Irish Republican Army (IRA) and the deaths of one American and two British hostages in Beirut two days after the U.S. bombing raids on Libya.

Also included was the April 5, 1986, bombing of a West Berlin discotheque that killed two American soldiers and a Turkish woman and injured 230 others.

U.S. confirms missing sergeant turned up in Libyan mission

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — U.S. military authorities in Europe are probing reports that a missing U.S. Air Force sergeant has turned up in the Libyan embassy in Madrid, defence officials here have confirmed, according to the Baltimore Sun.

The officials refused to say how they came by the reports, nor would they characterise the episode as a possible defection, saying that the only thing known for sure was that Staff Sgt. William Reich, 36, was absent without leave, the Sun reported.

A Defence Department spokesman said Sergeant Reich is a cargo handler assigned to the 628th Military Airlift Support Squadron with U.S. forces at Incirlik, Turkey. He had been on temporary assignment at the air

base at Torrejon, Spain, near Madrid.

The episode has gained the attention of high-ranking U.S. officers of the U.S. European Command, the Sun said.

The episode comes at a time when U.S. displeasure with Libya is again on the rise. The State Department has claimed that Washington has asked Libya not to send sophisticated, Soviet-made sea mines to Iran, which would be likely to use them in the Gulf.

The United States issued what it called a "chronology of Libyan terrorism" on Monday, in response to a report by Libya blasting Washington for bombing Tripoli and Benghazi.

A U.S. statement claimed Libya began a campaign in 1980

to assassinate exiled opponents of Col. Muammar Qadhafi. It outlined a "list of terrorist incidents" dating back to February of that year.

More than 20 anti-Qadhafi exiles had been killed in attacks in Egypt, France, West Germany and elsewhere, it said, claiming Washington had "conclusive proof" of Libyan roles in "terrorist" incidents preceding the April 15, 1986, U.S. bombings.

The U.S. statement came in response to a report condemning the U.S. military action circulated by Libya as a U.N. document.

"This aggression constitutes a blatant exercise in official terrorism carried out by a major power against a small country," the Libyan report said.

JORDAN TELEVISION	
Tel. 77111-19	
PROGRAMME ONE	
15:30	Review of programmes
15:50	Cartoons and children's programmes
17:30	Small Wonder
18:00	St. Elsewhere Hospital
18:30	Arabic series
19:20	Local programme
20:00	News in Arabic
20:40	Arabic series
21:30	Cultural programme
22:00	Wrestling
22:30	News in Arabic
23:10	Wrestling contd.
PROGRAMME TWO	
18:00	Cinq filles a Paris
19:00	News in French
19:15	A jour'hui en Jordanie
19:30	News in Hebrew
19:45	Sports Magazine
20:00	News in Arabic
20:30	Don't Wait Up
21:10	News in English
22:00	News in English
22:30	Rhinoceros Exchange
RADIO JORDAN	
855 KHz. AM & 99 MHz. FM	
& partly on 95.0 KHz. SW	
Tel. 77111-19	
07:00	Light Music
07:30	News
08:00	Morning Show
09:00	News Summary
10:00	Morning Show Cont.
11:00	Men from the Ministry
11:30	Songs from Movies
12:00	News Summary
12:05	Readings
12:30	Pop Session
13:00	News Summary
13:05	Pop Session
14:00	News Bulletin
14:10	Instrumentals
14:30	Piano Magic
15:00	Concert Hour
16:00	News in Summary
16:05	Instrumentals
17:00	Old Favourites
17:30	Jordan Weekly
18:00	News Summary
18:05	News Summary
18:30	Music
19:00	News Desk
19:30	Date with a Star
20:00	Evening Show
21:00	News Summary
21:05	Evening Show Cont.
21:55	News Summary

WHAT'S GOING ON	
TODAY'S EVENTS	
EXHIBITION	
* An exhibition by Mustafa Sha'aban at the French Cultural Centre (until Sept. 24).	
FILM	
* "North by Northwest" at 7:00 p.m. at the American Centre.	
CULTURAL CENTRES	
Royal Cultural Centre — Tel. 6610267	
American Centre — 64371	
British Council — 6361478	
French Cultural Centre — 637009	
German Institute — 641993	
Soviet Cultural Centre — 64203	
Spanish Cultural Centre — 63409	
Turkish Cultural Centre — 63777	
Y.W.C.A. — 661818	
Y.W.M.C.A. — 641793	
Armenian Cultural Centre — 637111	
Univ. of Jordan Library — 643555	
MUSEUMS	
"Children's Heritage and Science Museum." Fun and knowledge for all ages, plus a small planetarium at the Hays Arts Centre. Open all week 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. and 5:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. Closed on Friday.	
Folklore Museum: Jewellery and costumes over 100 years old. Also mosaics from Madinat and Jerash (4th to 18th centuries). The Roman Theatre, Amman. Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5 p.m. Year-round. Tel. 651760.	
Jordan Archaeological Museum: Has an excellent collection of the antiquities of Jordan. Jabal Al Ofa (Clay Hill). Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. (Fridays and official holidays 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.). Closed Tuesdays.	
Jordan National Gallery: Contains a collection of paintings, ceramics, and sculptures by contemporary Islamic artists from most of the Muslim countries and a collection of paintings by 19th century orientalist artists. Muntazah, Jabal Luweibeh. Opening hours: 10:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. and 3:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. Closed Tuesdays. Tel. 630126.	
CHURCHES	
St. Joseph Church (Roman Catholic) Jabal Amman. Tel. 624590.	
Church of the Annunciation (Roman Catholic) Jabal Luweibeh. Tel. 637440.	
De la Salle Church (Roman Catholic) Jabal Hussein. Tel. 661757.	
Terrasanta Church (Roman Catholic). Jabal Luweibeh, mass in Italian language, meet every Saturday at 5:30 p.m. Tel. 622366.	
Church of the Annunciation (Greek Orthodox) Abadi. Tel. 623541.	
Anglican Church (Church of the Redeemer) Jabal Amman. Tel. 625383.	
Armenian Catholic Church Ashrafieh. Tel. 771331.	
Armenian Orthodox Church Ashrafieh. Tel. 775261.	
St. Ephraim Church (Syrian Orthodox) Ashrafieh. Tel. 771751.	
Assunon International Church (Inter-denominational): meets at Southern Baptist School in Shmeisani. Tel. 677534.	
Evangelical Lutheran Church Jabal Amman. Ninth Circle. (Rev. N. Smith). Tel. 811285.	

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport. Tel. (RJ) 3336, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

ROYAL JORDANIAN FLIGHTS (Terminal 1)

09:35	..... Doha (RJ)
10:15	..... Agaba (RJ)
10:15	..... Cairo (RJ)
10:30	..... Kuwait (RJ)
10:30	..... Damascus (RJ)
10:50	..... Dhahran (RJ)
11:00	..... Bahrain (RJ)
11:00	..... Kuwait (add.) (RJ)
11:00	..... Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
11:30	..... Cairo (RJ)
11:40	..... Larnaca (RJ)
11:40	..... Athens (RJ)
11:40	..... New York, Amsterdam (RJ)
11:40	..... London, Geneva (RJ)
11:50	..... Los Angeles, Chicago, Vienna (RJ)
11:50	..... Istanbul (RJ)
11:50	..... Madrid, Belgrade (RJ)
11:50	..... Bangkok (RJ)
09:55	..... Baghdad (RJ)

OTHER FLIGHTS (Terminal 2)

08:25	..... Karachi (PK)
13:40	..... Cairo (MS)
13:40	..... Abu Dhabi, Bahrain (GF)
14:35	..... Kuwait (KU)
15:45	..... Tripoli (LN)
16:00	..... Jeddah, Medina (SV)
16:00	..... Damascus (RJ)
17:30	..... Baghdad (IA)
18:30	..... Paris, Damascus (AF)
19:25	..... Beirut (ME)
21:00	..... Frankfurt (LH)
21:50	..... Tripoli (PK)
09:45	..... London, Cairo (BA)

DEPARTURES

ROYAL JORDANIAN FLIGHTS (Terminal 1)

03:30	..... Doha (RJ)
06:00	..... Kuwait (add.) (RJ)
08:00	..... Agaba (RJ)
12:00	..... Vienna, New York (RJ)
12:30	..... Athens (RJ)
12:45	..... Vienna, Chicago, Los Angeles (RJ)
13:00	..... London (RJ)
13:30	..... Cairo (RJ)
13:45	..... Istanbul (RJ)

OTHER FLIGHTS (Terminal 2)

07:00	..... Cairo, London (BA)
08:30	..... Larnaca, Zurich (SR)
09:25	..... Tripoli (PK)
10:35	..... Rome (AZ)
13:00	..... Damascus (TY)
14:05	..... Cairo (MS)
14:45	..... Doha, Abu Dhabi, Muscat (GF)
15:35	..... Kuwait (KU)
16:45	..... Kuwait (LN)
17:00	..... Sana'a (IY)
17:40	..... Medina, Jeddah (SV)
18:30	..... Baghdad (IA)
08:50	..... Karachi (PK)

PRAYER TIMES

05:03	..... Fajr
06:22	..... (Sunrise) Dhuha
12:31	..... Dhuhr
12:59	..... Asr
19:58	..... Maghreb
	..... 'Isha

MONEY EXCHANGE

Tuesday rates

Local sell/buy rates in ffs

Belgian franc	..... RJ 1.91
Dutch guilder	..... 168.6
French franc	..... 56.7
Italian lire	..... 26.3
Japanese yen (for 100)	..... 236.3
Swedish crown	..... 53.8
Swiss franc	..... 226.1
U.K. sterling pound	..... 558.6
U.S. dollar	..... 342/ 345.7
W. German mark	..... 187.6/ 190.4

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

It will continue to be hot, with northwesterly light to moderate winds. In Agaba, winds will be northerly moderate and calm sea.

Min./max.	temp.
Amman	..... 19/ 35
Agaba	..... 26/ 38
Deserts	..... 19/ 36

Hmoud pledges support for W. Bank farmers

AMMAN (Petra) — The Jordanian government has adopted a policy designed to support the steadfastness of the Arab people in the occupied West Bank, and the Ministry of Agriculture will, therefore, seek all means possible to support the agricultural sector in that territory, Minister of Agriculture Marwan Hmoud said here Tuesday.

Speaking at a meeting with a group visiting from the West Bank, the minister said that the Ministry of Agriculture will do all it can to provide assistance to West Bank farmers to help them increase their output. The group which the minister addressed represented agricultural cooperatives in different parts of the West Bank.

IATA conference talks review airline cooperation

AQABA (Petra) — Regional cooperation in civil aviation affairs was the main theme of discussion on the second day of a three-day conference on the changing needs of the air travel industry being held in Aqaba.

Gunter Eser, director-general of the International Air Transport Association (IATA), which is organising the gathering, made a speech in which he underlined the need to give more attention to the requirements of the civil aviation industry around the world. Dr. Eser also presented a review of the outcome of two seminars that were held in West Germany in 1983 and in the Philippines in 1985 under IATA auspices.

A paper from the British Civil Aviation Authority, which was reviewed by the participants, fo-

cused on the fast-moving developments in aviation technology, as well as the competition among various airlines, civil aviation systems, and aircraft industries.

The conference, opened under royal patronage on Monday, is expected to discuss new developments in air transport regulations, changes in airline sales and marketing, new production and pricing strategies, and developments in staff employment needs.

Mr. Ali Ghandour, chairman and chief executive of Royal Jordanian, the Kingdom's national air carrier, took the place of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan in opening the conference, which is attended by top aviation specialists from all over the world.



Director-General of the Jordan Company for Television, Radio and Cinema Production Jawad Maraga (right) and Arab League Assistant Secretary-General for Information Affairs Al Munsif Al May discuss the prospect of an Arab television production company during a meeting Tuesday (Petra photo).

Arab TV production company discussed

AMMAN (Petra) — An Arab League official on Tuesday discussed with Jawad Maraga, director-general of the Jordan Company for Television, Radio, and Cinema Production, the prospect of establishing an Arab company for television production, as recommended by a meeting of Arab ministers of information in Tunis.

Mr. Al Munsif Al May, Arab League assistant secretary-general for information affairs, accompanied by Mr. Maraga,

also visited the headquarters of the Jordan Company for Television, Radio, and Cinema Production to discuss its production, as well as its programmes which it markets in Jordan and the Arab World.

Jordan has requested the Arab League to host a meeting of information specialists who will take steps towards implementing this project. Agreement was reached at Tuesday's meeting on holding the projected conference in Amman on Nov. 24.

Soviet delegation visits Yarmouk University

IRBID (Petra) — A delegation from Tashkent University in the Soviet Union on Tuesday visited Yarmouk University and met with its president, Mohammad Hamdan to discuss bilateral cooperation in scientific and cultural affairs.

Dr. Hamdan briefed the visitors on the university's cultural programmes, as well as its plans

for development.

The visiting team, led by Dr. Nikolai Sergei, had earlier visited the University of Jordan and met with its president to discuss educational cooperation. The talks culminated in the signing of an executive programme to implement an agreement on cultural exchange.

Health ministry dispels reports of epidemic

By Najwa Najjar
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Reports of an unknown epidemic affecting over 800 people in Akkra, a village 40 kilometres from Irbid, were dispelled by an official at the Ministry of Health.

Referring to these reports Dr. Abdel Rahim Jalal, director of diarrhoea diseases and cholera at the Ministry of Health said, "Newspapers added an extra zero to the figure we gave them."

Over a one-month period, from July 22 until Aug. 22, 80 villagers from Akkra were treated for an influenza-type disease, which included the following symptoms: fever, headache, muscle pain, pain in the joints, constipation, and loss of appetite. "An additional 40 who did not report their illness are estimated to be affected by this virus, and the overall number can not be more than 120," Dr. Jalal said.

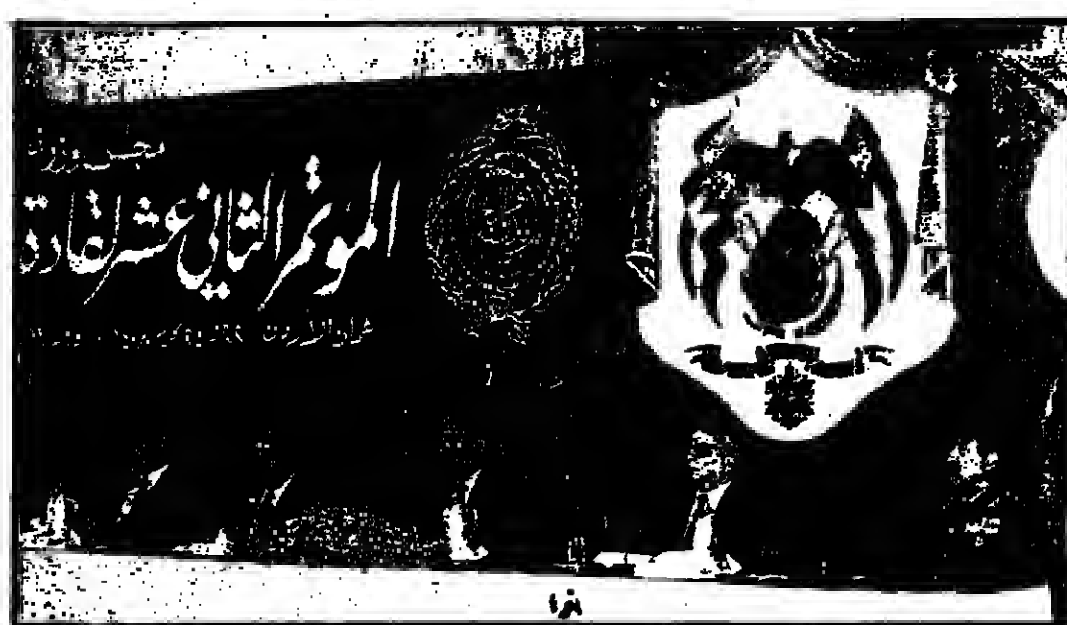
He explained that the director of health in the Irbid Governorate notified the Ministry of Health after several cases of fever of unknown origin appeared at Princess Basma Hospital and the military hospital in Irbid. "We

took several water and food samples," however no bacteria were evident. The patients' blood samples showed an influenza-like virus," Dr. Jalal continued.

"We suspect that the virus was brought to Akkra by a villager who trades with merchants in Irbid," he said, adding that Akkra is an isolated village which only has transportation links with Irbid. For this reason, Dr. Jalal contends that the disease did not spread to any of the neighbouring villages.

Since the disease is an airborne disease, and, therefore, highly contagious, the measure the ministry took to control the spreading of the disease was to discourage intimate contact. "In a village which has only 1,500 inhabitants the disease can easily be transmitted, and when 80 individuals of such a small village are affected by a disease, it is concerned an epidemic."

In addition, the 120 individuals, whose ages range from 3 to 35, were given antipyretic for the fever, and, in two to three days, they were on their feet again. In one month, the village was cleared of the influenza-like virus.



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Prime Minister Zaid Rifai, Minister of Interior Rajai Dajani, Director of the Public Security Department Lieutenant-General Abdul Hadi Al Majali, and Secretary-General of the Council of Arab Interior Ministers Akram Nashaat (right centre) attend Tuesday's opening session of the 12th conference of Arab police chiefs (Petra photo).

Crown Prince chairs committee on problem of unemployment

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, on Tuesday chaired a meeting of a committee charged with implementing measures to deal with unemployment in the Kingdom.

The committee discussed, in Prince Hassan's presence, the various recommendations proposed by a ministerial committee on unemployment and means for dealing with the problem.

Deputy Prime Minister Abdul Wahab Al Majali, who chairs the committee, presented a review of the steps already taken in this regard.

Later, the meeting discussed recommendations for vocational training programmes for community college and school graduates which would serve the needs of the national economic development plan, as well as the needs of Jordan's and other Arab countries' labour markets.

The committee will hold other meetings over the coming days to discuss matters related to the problem of unemployment in the country.

The committee is comprised of the ministers of labour, education, public works, finance, planning, and Mr. Ibrahim Izzeddin,

president of the Civil Service Commission, as well as Mr. Ali Hindawi, advisor at the prime minister's office.

Minister of Labour and Social Development Khaled Haj Hassan told the third Jordanian expatriates conference in Amman last July that nearly eight per cent of the Jordanian work force has registered as unemployed, and the number was expected to reach 9.1 per cent by 1990. This means that nearly 40,000 Jordanians, mostly university and community college graduates, are jobless.

Bank reopens 2 W. Bank branches

AMMAN (R) — The Cairo-Amman Bank plans to reopen two more branches in the Israeli-occupied territory this year.

An authorised source at the Jordan-based bank told Reuters on Tuesday that Israel had given permission for branches in the West Bank towns of Hebron and Jenin to reopen. The bank had five branches in the area before Israel occupied the West Bank in the 1967 war. It reopened offices at Nablus last November and Ramallah this month, and also

has 14 branches in Jordan. It is the only Arab financial institution now serving the West Bank's 800,000 people.

"We provide a service to the people. Before, their savings (in Jordanian dinars) were idle, now they can earn interest," the source said. "Israeli banks were charging them 50 or 60 per cent interest for loans. We charge nine per cent," he added.

He said the Nablus branch had attracted JD 11 million (\$32 million) in deposits and handled

transfers from Palestinians abroad of JD 17 million (\$50 million).

The bank had disbursed JD 4 million (\$12 million) for roads, public buildings, schools, and municipalities under Jordan's West Bank Development Programme, he said.

Jordan launched the five-year scheme last November, saying it planned to spend \$1.3 billion to improve social and economic life for people in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

New season of excavations under way by Yarmouk archaeological institute

AMMAN (J.T.) — A busy new season of archaeological excavations by the Yarmouk University Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology is well underway.

The institute in cooperation with several archaeological teams from the United States, West Germany, and France, has recently completed a survey of the 'Ain Ghazal region, will soon resume work at Tell Abu Hamid in the Jordan Valley, and is currently excavating the 9,000 year old Neolithic site of Basta near Petra and the 5,000 year old Bronze Age site of Zeraqon near Irbid.

Interested people will have an opportunity to visit some of the important digs underway on Friends of Archaeology field trips during September and October. A tour of Zeraqon will take place

this coming Saturday, Sept. 19. The third season of excavations at Khirbet Zeraqon, ten kilometres northeast of Irbid, along the western edge of Wadi Shallah, started the last week of August, and is in progress through the first week of October. The project is a joint venture of the Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology of Yarmouk University, Irbid, represented by Dr. Moawiyah Ibrahim, director of the institute, and the University of Tübingen, headed by Dr. Siegfried Mittmann, with the close cooperation and support of the Department of Antiquities.

Khirbet Zeraqon is a sister town of Bab Edh-Dhra' of the Early Bronze Age (mainly 3rd millennium B.C.). Excavations have revealed one of the largest walled towns in Jordan and Palestine from this period. Discoveries so far include: fortifications, a temple complex, and some domestic architecture. A highly-sophisticated hydraulic system has also been identified. The best evidence for the Roman road connecting Umm Qais (Gadara) with Jerash (Gerasa) and Der'a (Adraa) consists of a bridge built across the Wadi Shallah, immediately below Zeraqon to the east.

Those who wish to join the Friends of Archaeology field trip to Zeraqon should meet at the Amra Hotel parking lot at 8:15 a.m., Saturday, Sept. 19. The group will depart promptly at 8:30 a.m. Four-wheel drive vehicles are recommended.

Forum Humanum opens programme for high-scoring tawjihi students

AMMAN (Petra) — The Jordanian Chapter of Forum Humanum on Tuesday opened a four-day orientation programme for students who scored highest in the 1987 tawjihi examinations in provincial areas of Jordan.

The programme includes lectures on civic and social subjects, in addition to tours of historical and archaeological sites in the Kingdom.

The opening session in the programme was addressed by Minister of Higher Education Dr. Nassereddin Al Assad, who underlined the importance of the national sense of belonging which he said lies at the foundation of all endeavours for progress and prosperity. Another speaker was Dr. Ali Al Zaghul, Forum Humanum's executive director, who

outlined the objectives of the programme.

The students will visit the home of the late King Abdullah Ibn Al Hussein, founder of the Kingdom of Jordan, as well as other sites. In addition to the Minister of Higher Education, the opening session was attended by the ministry's secretary-general and other officials.

Supply ministry issues warning on bad cooking oil

AMMAN (Petra) — The Ministry of Industry, Trade and Supply on Tuesday issued a statement in which it warned the public against purchasing adulterated cooking oil which, it said, is being marketed by street vendors.

The statement said that, over the past few days, ministry inspectors apprehended street vendors roving in their pick-up trucks, cars, and minibuses peddling adulterated oil. They were found to be selling vegetable oil which they claimed was olive oil —

which is in constant demand by the public — after adding green colour additives to it to make it look like olive oil, the statement said. It said that the vendors were selling 15 kilograms of this adulterated oil for JD 12 and claiming that it was imported from Turkey.

The statement requested members of the public to report such vendors to the ministry and said that they should call telephone number 602121, to report these cases.

Administration team returns

AMMAN (Petra) — A two-man delegation has returned to Amman after taking part in a seminar on skills development of directors of public administrations in the Arab World.

Mr. Ahmad Aqaila, under secretary of the Ministry of In-

terior, who led the delegation to the seminar in Tunis, said that the participants focused on the establishment of an Arab data bank, administrative organisation in the private and public sectors, and incentives offered in recruiting directors.

Madaba to have health department

MADABA (Petra) — Minister of Health Zaid Hamzeh announced Tuesday that a fully-fledged department of health will be established in Madaba District in order to provide better health care for its inhabitants.

Dr. Hamzeh made a statement to the Jordan News Agency, Petra, during a visit, here, where he chaired a meeting to review current efforts to improve medical services in the district.

The decision to establish the department, the minister said, follows a detailed study by the Ministry of Health, and aims at expanding health services in Madaba District.

Conference of Arab police chiefs opens in Amman; talks focus on security

Crown Prince, in keynote address, calls for coordination to guarantee individual rights

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Police, the judiciary, and various government departments should combine efforts to ensure security, legitimacy, and supremacy of law, and to guarantee human and individual rights, His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, told a conference of Arab police chiefs on Tuesday.

The three authorities should work as a united entity to preempt accusations of "ignorance and disrespect for human rights" constantly levelled against Third World countries, said the Regent in a keynote address to the opening session of the 12th meeting of the Arab police and public security heads.

The concepts of comprehensive security and the relationship between development and security are two of the various important issues to be tackled by the three-day symposium. The event, attended by senior police delegations from 19 Arab countries, is sponsored by the Arab League's Council of Arab Interior Ministers.

In addition to the two types of international terrorism — the human and the political — Prince Hassan said, "I would like to add a third kind of terrorism stemming from deprivation. This deprivation, in many instances, has led to disturbance of security and peace."

Arab countries, he said, should work towards bridging the gap between rich and needy states. "We should help the poor countries in their fight against deprivation and its negative consequences. We should assist drought-stricken countries to overcome their famine problems," said the Crown Prince.

Prince Hassan stressed the importance of "pan-Arab cooperation and unity" to consolidate the region's position, "in facing the numerous threats and challenges facing it. In his context, he referred to Jordan's efforts to help Sudan overcome its problems."

Touching on Jordan's constant welcome to any Arab meetings and initiatives, Prince Hassan said he has hosted the Arab Thought Forum as an independent organisation to discuss the region's present problems and future challenges. The forum, he said, will soon organise a conference on the "Arab World and a new human order."

On Jordan's efforts towards achieving a better international humanitarian order, the Crown Prince referred to a proposal he presented on the subject to the

U.N. General Assembly in 1982 to set up an independent commission for human rights. This commission, he added, has just completed its mandatory term on researching various human issues such as famine, desertification, and the condition of street children.

The Crown Prince also praised the various achievements since the 1972 establishment of the Conference for Arab Police Chiefs. These resolutions have helped to serve Arab security needs.

Among the various steps undertaken by the conference throughout its 11 previous meetings are: joint cooperation in police training, an Arab agreement for the exchange of criminals, the establishment of an Arab sports federation for the police, and putting forward a cooperation strategy among Arab countries in the fight against drugs and drug trafficking.

Prince Hassan also praised the outcome of the 1983 conference held in Baghdad, which resulted in the endorsement of the goals of a strategy for Arab security.

In his speech, Secretary-General of the Arab Council for Interior Ministers Akram Nashaat said the Baghdad resolution was already in the process of implementation in a bid to protect the Arab countries and societies from crime and aggression and to preserve the security of the Arab individual, and his or her freedom and rights. Dr. Nashaat said the Council for Arab Interior Ministers had approved of a detailed working plan to ensure the total implementation of the 1983 resolution.

He added the ministerial council was in the process of preparing a study on types of terrorism and means of fighting them. He said the study would be endorsed by the forthcoming meeting of the ministerial council.

Terrorism, he said, was affecting the whole world, in general, and the region in particular. He said terrorism in the area was increasing due to "our constant struggle with the Zionist aggressors and the Iranian enemy."

The conference's first working

session resumed on Tuesday afternoon with a speech from Public Security Department (PSD) Director Lieutenant-General Abdul Hadi Al Majali. Lt.-Gen. Majali, also chairman of the 12th conference, paid tribute to the achievements of the Arab police chiefs. "These meetings have cemented our efforts to consolidate security and stability in the region and to strengthen cooperation among the various pan-Arab security apparatus and personnel."

He said the Jordanian Public Security Department maintained a constant interest in taking part in such meetings and in interpreting their resolutions towards a stronger Arab security.

Heads of delegations from 12 Arab countries also made opening statements to the meeting's first session. These delegations represent the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Algeria, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Syria, Bahrain, Somalia, Iraq, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya and North Yemen.

The various speakers called for more Arab cooperation and unity on all levels, and praised the previous achievements and resolutions of the former 11 conferences for Arab police chiefs.

The discussion of the meeting's second working session focused on assessing the implemented resolutions of the 11th conference, concepts of development and comprehensive security, the ideals of a comprehensive public security order, and the role of police in investigations and questioning of suspects. The role of police in protecting archaeological sites was also discussed during the nearly two-hour session.

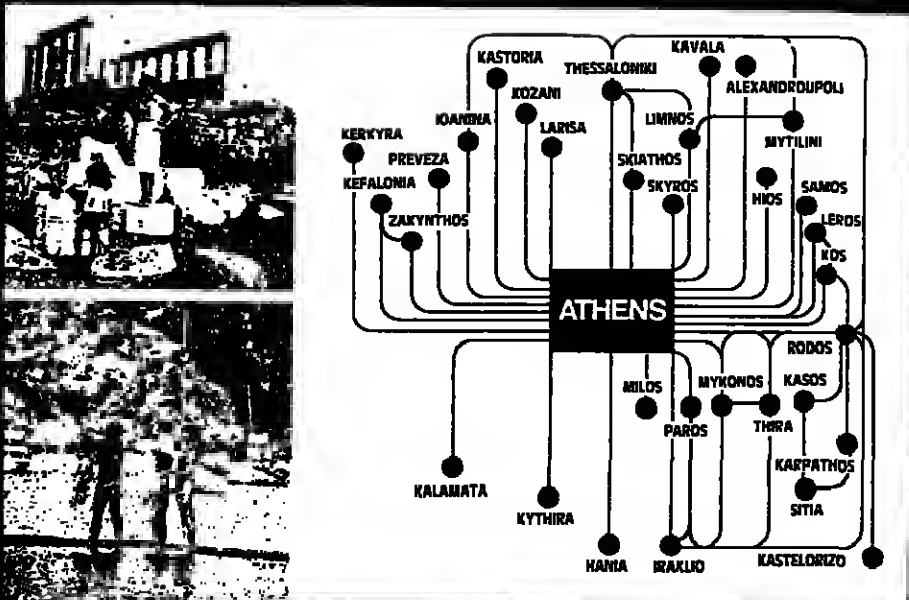
Farm project agreement initialled

AMMAN (Petra) — Initial agreement on a project for fattening sheep in the Ramtha and Mafraq regions of Jordan was reached in Amman on Tuesday.

Under the agreement signed by the Jordan Cooperative Organisation (JCO) and a foreign company, work will begin in connection with local Jordanian firms to build farm units for the project in the two areas. Work on the project is expected to be completed in six months.

The Jordanian government will finance the scheme through a loan from the European Investment Bank.

OLYMPIC'S WORLDWIDE FLIGHTS



A WISE CHOICE

EFFECTIVE FROM 29 MARCH 1987

AMMAN - ATHENS		
Friday	18.20	22.35
Sunday	18.20	22.35
ATHENS - AMMAN		
Friday	13.35	17.35
Sunday	13.35	17.35

OLYMPIC AIRWAYS
The National Airline of Greece.

For further information contact on G.S.A.

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Jordan Times

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Division is destruction

HISTORY speaks for itself. But if the Arab World needed a reminder of where we stand vis-a-vis history and geography today, His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan gave us just that in his speech to the opening session of the First Arab Strategic Conference yesterday.

The success of the Ottoman Empire was assured on the basis of the interethnic conflicts and divisions among the Arab ranks of the time. The disintegration of the Ottoman Empire, following the advent of the European colonisation, did not improve the lot of the Arabs in terms of foreign exploitation; for the Arabs continued to maintain division among themselves. Even after the colonisers have left the Arabs independent to manage their own affairs, the Arab countries have not yet realised, sufficiently, that strength comes from unity and that division is destruction. Today, as in the past, the Arab Nation is threatened with destruction because the countries constituting the Arab Nation have as yet not forged a unified stand in the face of their common enemies.

The efforts of individual Arab countries to develop their own defence forces may be commendable for the interests of their own national securities. But how far are they potent strategically when it comes to the question of the entire Arab Nation confronting a threat of gigantic nature, such as the one emanating from Israel, in collusion with the regime in Tehran. As long as the Arab states in the Middle East do not forge a common strategy, forgetting all divisions that is some way keep them apart, the Arab countries will be exploited for the advantage of foreign powers. Israel will manipulate the Arab divisions and disunity for its own purpose of hegemony and to support, as it claims, Western interests in the region; Iran has already shown intention to dislodge and dissipate every Arab country in the Gulf region.

It is not only for one or two or three times that His Majesty King Hussein called on the Arab countries to close their ranks and adopt a common stand against all threats to the Arab Nation. The King, the Crown Prince, and successive Jordanian governments have made it a cornerstone of Jordan's national policy to strive continually, and despite all the difficulties and setbacks, to reach Arab consensus on issues of vital and strategic importance to our security.

While the conference at University of Jordan deliberates on strategic matters in the Arab region, it will certainly be fruitful if it can bring about concrete strategic proposals which will be viable when applied to the Arab context as it exists today. Will it be able to define a common strategic doctrine that will be acceptable to all the countries — each of which seems wary of a common defence and expends resources in a way commensurate with its perception of threats to its own national security. The task of unity is not an easy one. But a common Arab stand requires a common Arab strategic doctrine which must be defined and articulated before it can be applied to a common defence. It is well worth searching for.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: No sign of success

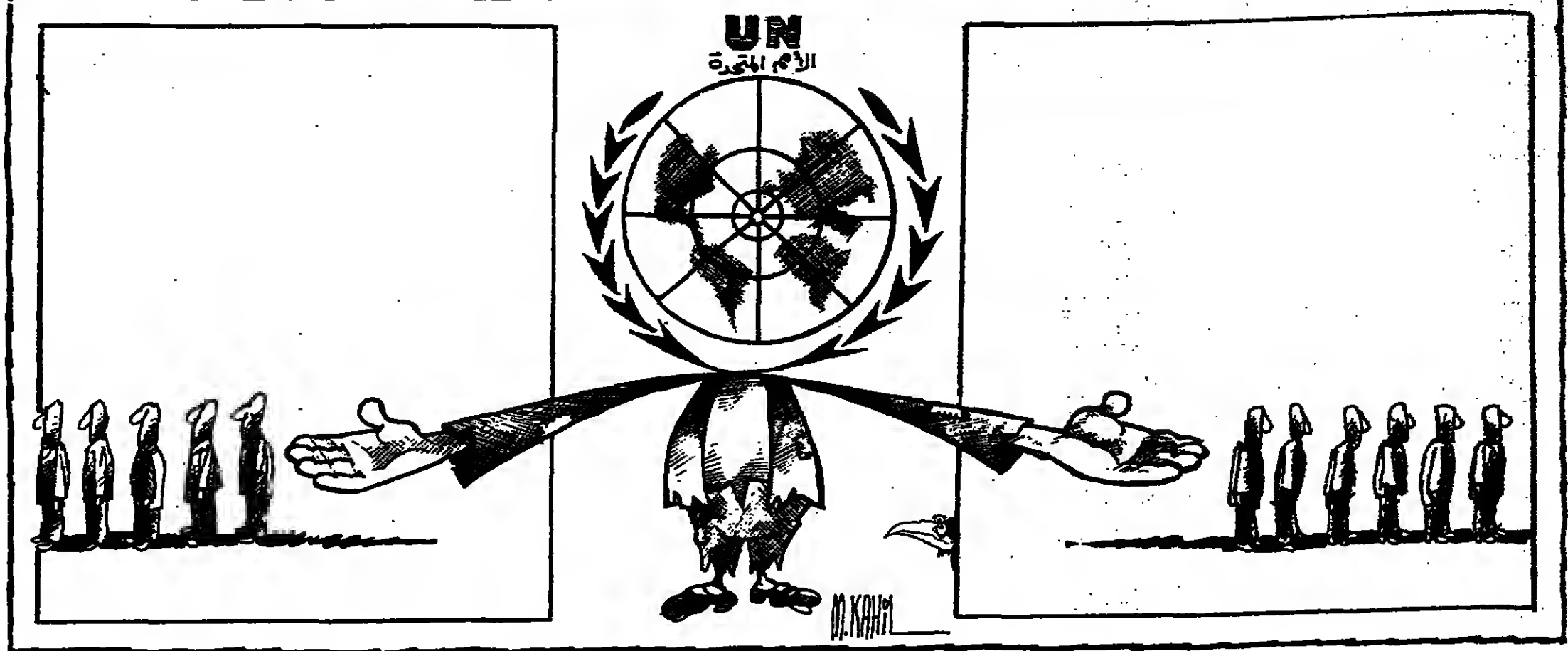
SO far there is no indication that the mission of the United Nations secretary general in the Gulf has achieved any success. What Javier Perez de Cuellar heard in Tehran was the same tune he had heard from the Iranian rulers before the visit. For this reason, we can say that de Cuellar's mission has come to an unsuccessful end, especially as we take into account Baghdad's opposite stand which totally contradicts Tehran's views. Perhaps de Cuellar is enthusiastic about his mission, and about finding a way to end the conflict. Iraq is no less enthusiastic than de Cuellar, but Iran has shown beyond doubt that it is enthusiastic about pursuing the conflict with its neighbour and has no intention of making peace. Iran's stand is manifested in its escalation of attacks on civilian targets and in adhering to its aggressive position. In fact, de Cuellar's mission is confined in Tehran alone since Iraq has wholeheartedly accepted U.N. Security Council Resolution 598 to end the war and has accepted other peace bids by various world organisations.

Al Dustour: Conflicting stands

IN talks with U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar, Iraqi officials voiced their country's demand for the implementation of Security Council Resolution 598 to end the conflict with Iran. This Iraqi position is clearly opposed to Iran's stand which is designed to bid for time that would allow it to launch more aggression on the Arab Nation. Iran, through procrastination, hopes to split the world community's unanimous approval of the resolution and of the sanctions which should be imposed if the resolution was not implemented. For this reason, Iraq has no doubt that de Cuellar's mission has faltered; and that the secretary general would not be able to bring an end to the war as long as the Iranian rulers are adamant and adhere to their obstinacy. The Security Council which has entrusted de Cuellar with his mission is now invited to call for an urgent meeting for the purpose of looking into means of imposing sanctions on Iran which continues to show disrespect to the will and the decisions of the international community.

Sawt Al Shaab: Time for cooperation

PRINCE Hassan has called for a South-South cooperation as an alternative to the absence of a true and sincere cooperation between the northern and southern hemispheres. Lack of North-South cooperation has no doubt maintained the northern regions' wealth and perpetuated the poverty of the poor countries of the South. Prince Hassan in his address read on his behalf in Peking pointed out to the fact that the northern countries have been monopolising the world's wealth and leaving the South as poor and as backward as ever. He pointed to the remedy inherent in the utilisation of science and technology to achieve progress and increase production, and narrow the gap with the North. Prince Hassan urged the countries of the southern hemisphere to launch close scientific cooperation and to define their objectives and work towards achieving them. The countries of the South, he said, should not expect any real cooperation in their dealings with those of the northern regions of the globe and should therefore share advanced knowledge and maintain the highest level of cooperation. Jordan, Prince Hassan noted, has been striving to develop its resources employing science and technology, and it hopes that cooperation with the rest of countries of the southern hemisphere would lead to further progress.



Tunisia takes tough IMF medicine

Tunisia is enjoying robust economic growth in the wake of last year's standby loan agreement with the IMF. However, Francis Gihles, recently in Tunisia, points out that the domestic political climate may well provide the key to the country's future success.

TUNISIA is meeting all the targets set out in the standby agreement it signed with the IMF last autumn and which ushered in a period of unprecedented austerity and structural changes in the economy. Despite severe cutbacks on public expenditure and wages, a good cereal harvest of 1.8 million tonnes, higher export revenues from tourism, farm produce, textiles and phosphates and growing remittances from Tunisian expatriate workers have already cut the trade deficit by 29.6 per cent to Tunisian Dinars 318.3 million (\$382 million) for the first six months of the year compared with the same period in

1986.

The minister of planning and finance, Mr. Ismail Khelil, now believes the growth of GDP could reach 5 per cent for 1987 against initial projections of 4.4 per cent. Despite the devaluation of the dinar, which has fallen by 47.6 per cent against the French franc since August 1985 and 7.9 per cent against the U.S. dollar, inflation is not expected to be above 8 per cent for the year as a whole. Meanwhile hard currency reserves, at TD94 million, now cover two months' worth of imports, whereas last summer they were non-existent.

Thus the major IMF targets are

being respected. The current account deficit for the first six months of the year was TD 162.8 million, slightly above half the projected figure for 1987. The budget deficit, which reached 5.3 per cent of GDP last year, is expected to decline to around 4 per cent in 1987. The growth in money supply, however, appears to be running somewhat ahead of target.

An IMF standby loan worth SDR18.4 million (\$281 million), a further IMF compensatory financing facility, two structural adjustment loans from the World Bank worth US\$150 million each and aid from Tunisia's Western and Middle East friends have all contributed to these achievements. But they have been bought at the cost of a sharp fall in domestic demand, which in turn has led to many lay-offs in private and state industries and to the virtual freezing of a number of projects, not least of which is the recently built General Motors truck assembly plant in Qairwan.

The months ahead are not going to be easy, especially for the state enterprises which account for 60 per cent of industrial output and employment, and are often grossly over-stuffed. Productivity in such para-statal companies slipped badly in recent

years as precious resources were diverted to maintain investments and employment in firms which were more often than not making a loss. Private companies meanwhile are being hit by a combination of a credit squeeze and a fall in demand.

The new economic development plan which was endorsed by the National Assembly at the end of July calls for investments of TD10.4 billion over five years, that is less, in real terms, than during the previous plan. Non-oil exports are expected to grow by 8 per cent annually with tourism consolidating its position as Tunisia's single largest source of foreign currency. This year over 1.5 million European visitors are expected to earn the country nearly TD500 million, a 25 per cent increase on last year's figure.

The devaluation of the dinar has provided a boost to the export of textiles, clothes, fish and olive oil. It has also encouraged workers abroad who have remitted 56 per cent more funds during the first six months of 1987 than during the equivalent period last year (1987 first six months TD128 million). The growth in GDP this year, which comes after a decline of 0.9 per cent last year will go exclusively towards promoting exports

and servicing the country's foreign debt, which is expected to reach US\$5.5 billion by the end of 1987. The debt service this year amounts to just over \$900 million, that is about 30 per cent of all exports.

Investment during the next five years will go to the farming sector (20 per cent) where the aim is to make the country far more self-sufficient in food than hitherto, small projects (27 per cent) and some infrastructural works. Investment in education will absorb TD270 million and will undergo major changes aimed at creating more skilled workers and technicians, less lawyers, doctors and arts students.

Creating 2,400 new jobs outside agriculture is a tall challenge and is unlikely to be met if labour is not shed in major state companies. Unemployment and severe under-employment affect about a quarter of the adult population.

These figures and others particularly those concerning personal incomes which have declined by an estimated 15 per cent since 1984 are difficult to measure accurately, as the black economy may account for as much as 20 to 25 per cent of GDP.

Over the next five years of the government led Mr. Rashid Sfar

is aiming to ship resources from unproductive sectors such as car assembly plants to productive ones such as agriculture, food processing, tourism and services. Consultancy and engineering advisory companies are springing up for which there are no lack of well educated and enterprising young Tunisians.

However, to unshackle an economy which is over-burdened with rules and regulations all reminiscent of the erstwhile coloniser, France, half a century ago, than of the modern world requires the full confidence of the private sector.

Because of the political turmoil of the past 18 months — the sacking of former prime minister, Mr. Mohammed M'Zali, the decision of the head of state Mr. Habib Bourguiba to divorce his second wife Madame Wassila Ben Amar — and the witch hunt for corruption which followed, that confidence remains very shaky.

The policies initiated by the prime minister and his minister of finance do not lack boldness, nor do they suffer from lack of support in the West. It is the domestic political climate which could well provide the key to the relative success, or failure, of the economic reforms initiated in 1986 — Financial Times feature.

Ha'aretz: Stop the Arab bomb

The following article, that appeared in the Israeli newspaper, Ha'aretz, is reprinted from the London-based Middle East International.

By Dan Margalit

ACCORDING to reports published this week, France is currently trying to repair the Iraqi atomic reactor destroyed by the Israeli airforce six years ago. They were denied by French Prime Minister Jacques Chirac, but Israel has reasons to keep a close watch on these developments, especially since it emerged this week that Iraq was producing a long-range missile designed to carry nuclear rather than conventional warheads. In these circumstances, Jerusalem had better reiterate the "Begin doctrine", first revealed 74 months ago, in the form of a public statement to the effect that Israel's long strategic arm would forcefully prevent and stop the creation of an Arab atomic bomb.

Given the reports about Pakistan's capacity to produce nuclear arms, it would be interesting to know whether Israel intends to also act there, as it did against Iraq. Israel used to leave the question unanswered, emphasising that it was not concerned with the nuclear triangle constituted by India, China and Pakistan. Even Menachem Begin refrained from formulating an explicit position of this. Karachi is situated in the "third circle" surrounding Israel, and he never expanded his threat to include it. The matter was left open in view of Pakistan's relations with Iraq and Libya, which contradicted its messages to Jerusalem to the effect that it would keep out of the Middle East.

Things are different in relation to Iraq. The bombing of the reactor near Baghdad was unique in that it was accompanied by a public statement. Begin's motive in making it was political, for he needed a spectacular and widely noticed success before the approaching 1981 elections, but by stating that Israel would not allow any threatening Arab reactor to be built in the Middle East he created a new fact, an additional *casus belli*. When the international community protested against the doctrine no less than against the bombing itself, which could otherwise have remained secret, since nobody except Begin publicised it, Israel's foreign ministry tried to improve Israel's image. It hastened to explain that the situation in Iraq was unique, implying that there was no comprehensive danger in the future.

However, the 1981 doctrine *de facto* remained in force, and six years after its publication Professor (of physics) Yuval Neuman, Israel's self-appointed spokes-

man, is convinced that it had a decisive influence on events. After all, the industrial and commercial elements involved in the reactor project have departed since Begin spelled out Israel's position. Neuman claims their names were even removed from the prospectuses. Westerners keen on business nevertheless fear any contact with Iraq in the nuclear field. "They won't sell to Iraq and nobody wants any contact with it," claims Neuman.

In view of the reports indicating the beginnings of a new Arab attempt to return to the nuclear club, Jerusalem's position remains unclear. Begin used to say that Israel would never allow such a threat to build up against it, but he has isolated himself at home. It is unclear whether Shamir fully adheres to his predecessor's doctrine and whether he regards it as applicable also to Pakistan.

The Israeli government contains a large political grouping which opposed the bombing of the Iraqi nuclear reactor six years ago. It is headed by Shimon Peres, who seemed to be wrong then, and continues to hold the erroneous view that the bombing of the nuclear reactor was unnecessary. Peres was convinced that the Iraqis were incapable of maintaining a "hot" reactor, and that Israel could persuade French President Francois Mitterrand to abort the military purpose which lay at the root of Baghdad's investment. It would be nice to know whether his position is representative of current Israeli policy.

Yossi Sarid, who criticised the bombing of the Iraqi reactor in 1981, when he was still a Labour Knesset member, emphasised then that it had not made Israel safe for good. Should the Iraqis decide to rebuild the reactor, he argued, a new bombardment by the Israeli airforce was bound to fail, or would be extremely difficult. Those sharing his views believe that Israel is not about to defeat the "Islamic bomb", and had better seek an agreed solution through negotiations.

But what is Israel's policy, apart from the Israeli (and separate Egyptian proposal) submitted to the U.N., which called for a fully supervised clearing of the Middle East of nuclear weapons? The likelihood that this will be acceptable to all sides remains low and meanwhile there are signs that the Arab World is not content with the huge quantities of biological and chemical weapons it has acquired as a deterrent against Israel, which it regards as the sole regional nuclear power. It is moving towards an "Islamic bomb" and the next government to be formed in Israel after the elections will certainly have to reiterate the Begin doctrine.

By Nicholas Doughty
Reuter

OSLO — Former Norwegian Prime Minister Kaare Willoch could well be NATO's next political chief — but all he will say about his candidacy is that he is improving his French.

Willoch, 58, was nominated last month by his country, a founder member of the 16-nation alliance, for the post of NATO secretary-general. Britain's Lord Carrington plans to step down from the Brussels-based job next year.

So far, Willoch's sole rival is West German Defence Minister Manfred Woerner, 52.

Willoch is firm about the major challenges facing NATO.

"Democracies, after standing up to a challenge for a long period of time, tend to develop a certain fatigue — a belief that the danger must now be over," he

told Reuters in an interview.

"The new leadership in the Soviet Union has proved that it is far better at politics than any of its predecessors. They have developed a very sophisticated attitude."

"The greatest danger is that one then permits imbalances in forces. The balance of power is absolutely essential for the preservation of peace."

Willoch, prime minister from 1981 to 1986, has always been a staunch supporter of Washington and is highly-respected across Norway's political spectrum for his intellect and a sometimes sharp tongue.

As Norway's first conservative prime minister since 1920, he was credited with bringing a new brand of professionalism to a traditionally low-key political system.

Fluent in English and German, he seems to weigh each word as

he would gold, carefully, assessing each nuance with the experience born of almost four decades in politics.

"I like Brussels very much, and that's not supposed to be a hint," said Willoch, who has led parliament's committee on foreign affairs since he gave up leadership of the party when his government was ousted by Labour's Gro Harlem Brundtland.

"But I shall be improving my French, which is not very good," he added, with a smile.

Another major task for the Western alliance, according to Willoch, is the restructuring of forces following any likely INF (intermediate-range forces) agreement in which U.S. medium-range missiles, as well as shorter-range systems, would be eliminated from Europe.

Moscow would also scrap its missiles in these categories.

"If one succeeds in reducing nuclear arsenals, one then puts more emphasis on conventional weapons," Willoch said.

"We therefore have to accept an increase in defence expenditure and carry on down the road towards standardisation of weapons," he said.

Warsaw Pact forces have traditionally used standard calibres and designs on anything from assault rifles to heavy artillery, thus making them much easier to produce en masse.

NATO, on the other hand, has independent states keen to preserve their own interests and weapons types.

"Many people in the West feel that technical superiority in weapons compensates for numerical superiority," Willoch said. "But we have to be careful. One never knows how long that superiority might last."

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Valuing Ms America

Equal wages for equal work has become the 1980s economic issue for U.S. feminists. And they are now beginning to win the battle with many states and big companies taking a hard look at pay structures. Christopher Reed reports.

AMERICAN women have only been fighting for equal pay for work of equal value since the early 1980s, but many have already made significant gains. Comparable worth, or pay equity, has been established as the feminist economic issue of the 1980s, fulfilling a prediction by the movement's leaders at the end of the 1970s.

U.S. women and their supporters have now forced 14 of the nation's most powerful states, including New York and Illinois, and 24 major cities including Los Angeles and Chicago, to enact some form of the concept, either through collective bargaining or legislation backed by trade unions.

Another dozen states are currently studying the issue and it is expected that they will make some reforms by 1990.

Major companies, traditionally less unionised than those in Britain, are quietly examining their wage structures — and not just to see whether women are paid less than men for the same job, for this was prohibited by the Equal Pay Act some years ago.

Companies like the Bank of America, Chase Manhattan Bank, and International Business Machines have been re-assessing the experience, responsibility and physical strain encountered by employees in traditional female jobs, such as secretaries, and comparing them on a points system with men who work in predominantly male jobs, such as electricians.

Nationwide, as the campaign unfolds for next year's presidential election, many trade unionists and feminists are planning to try to push the question of pay equity to the centre of the political arena, even if a female candidate does not stand.

In other important areas such as California and the cities of New York, Boston and Philadelphia, the fight has only just begun.

The largest comparable worth lawsuit ever is now pending in California. It has been filed by the California State Employees Association and is backed by Washington lawyer Mr. Winn Newman. Ironically Mr. Newman is regarded as the father of America's feminist-backed pay equity movement.

Newly-released government figures also show that only three years ago American women were earning on average under 69 per cent of men's wages. Yet their pay had increased from its 1975 level of 59 per cent only because men's wages had dropped over the same period.

In that year female university graduates earned on average only about \$1,000 more annually than

males without the American equivalent of O-level qualifications.

"But we've still made quite a bit of headway given that the issue only got off the ground in the 1980s," says Ms. Diana Rock, director of women's rights for the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, which has fought for recognition of comparable worth more than any other trade union in the United States.

AFSCME has more than a million members, half of them women, and it is the largest in America's equivalent of the Trades Union Congress.

Since the early 1980s proponents of comparable worth have argued that secretaries are paid less than janitors simply because they are women.

For example, Los Angeles previously paid beginner clerk-typists about 15 per cent less than new warehouse workers. Secondary school workers with no relevant previous experience were accepted for both jobs — yet the women who traditionally filled the clerical jobs were expected to be able to type as well.

One of the movement's first successes came only after an unprecedented strike which took place in 1981 in San Jose, California's third city and the largest in Silicon Valley.

After confirming that female jobs were underpaid on average by 15 per cent, the city then tried to delay introducing comparable worth because of its cost, but hundreds of its employees went on strike. As a result they won a lump sum of \$1.45 million in pay increases over a two-year period.

Since then hundreds of millions of dollars have been added to women's pay cheques because of fair pay settlements, AFSCME estimates.

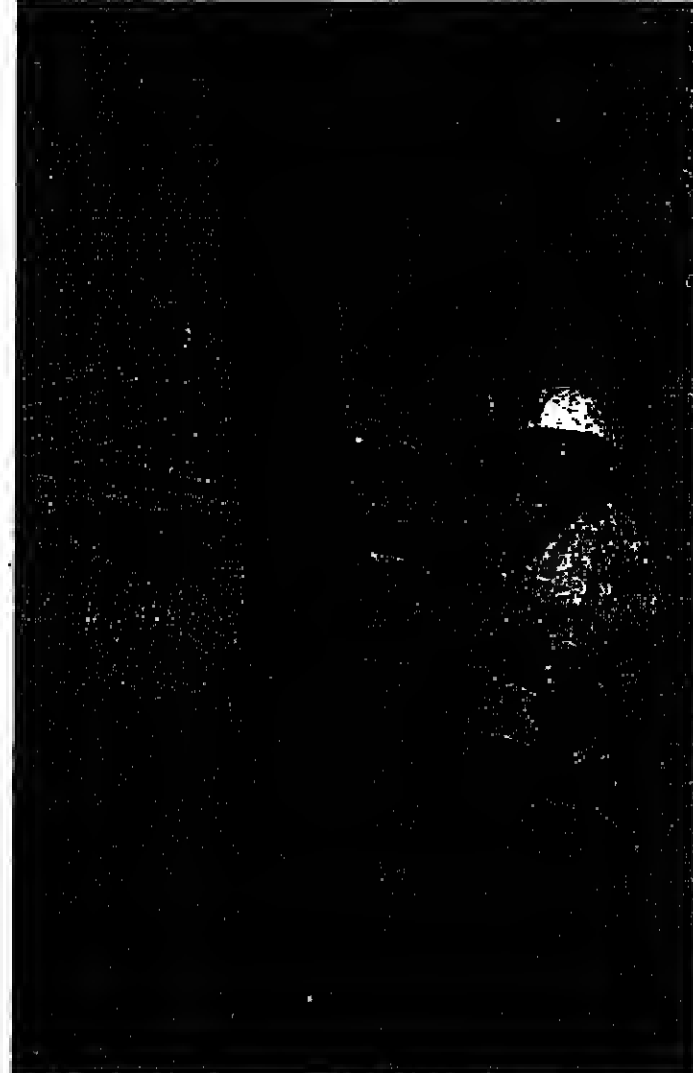
In 1984 the mid-western state of Minnesota, known for its progressive social attitudes, became the first state to apply the idea.

After finding that four-fifths of its job descriptions were "sexist" and that more female-dominated positions paid less, the state upgraded most women's jobs.

Men also benefited when the state's investigation showed that some of their traditional jobs posed health risks and were underpaid too.

The fair pay movement suffered a setback in 1985 in the North Western state of Washington when an appeals court overturned a favourable verdict in the first major case brought to a trial.

The appeal judges ruled that discrimination must be proven in each individual case rather than as a principle. Despite this, Washington state decided to settle the action because of the



Climbing the ladder: American women are making headway on the issues of jobs and wages.

likelihood of another appeal and agreed to spend \$482 million to raise the pay of female employees.

A bill with a good chance of passing is now before Congress. This would enact comparable worth for all federal employees. But President Reagan is expected to veto it, turning pay equity into a major issue by next year's elections, its supporters hope.

The Reagan administration has constantly hampered the movement's efforts on women's pay. In 1984, the Civil Rights Commission chairman Mr. Clarence Pendleton, a man who is supposed to work for social justice, described pay equity as a "lonely" idea that would take away women's jobs.

In the private sector, gains have been less noticeable, says AFSCME's Ms. Rock.

"It's just more of a public sector issue... in the private sector they're too concerned about foreign competition and keeping the jobs they have," she explained.

But some traditional job evaluation methods have been updated in the wake of the renewed focus brought by feminists.

Bank of America has changed its earlier, narrow definition of physical work to include eye and muscle strain, common among visual display terminal operators and bank counter clerks. Previously only physical demands such as heavy lifting — a task that is usually performed by men — were recognised.

IBM and Chase Manhattan Bank have both recently been looking at internal pay disparities. Chase Manhattan is said to have compared its vice-presidents' pay and found that those in commercial banking — where in America women predominate — were paid less than those in male-dominated investment banking although their jobs were quite similar.

When it was presented with these findings, the bank narrowed the salary gap by giving the commercial bankers more responsibility and raising their pay.

Opponents in the private sector continue to argue strenuously that companies cannot afford to raise wages and that market forces should determine levels. They also maintain that women should earn less because they are "less educated, have less responsibility in their jobs and stay in the market for a shorter time."

But these opponents of equal pay for equal work should perhaps reflect that women are also traditionally less greedy. A recent study of white-collar crime found that female embezzlers stole about 10 times less than their male counterparts — *The Guardian*.

Regent: Iran and Israel pose gravest threat

(Continued from page 1)

have encouraged and facilitated this foreign power presence by "creating a vacuum and by ignoring our concept of collective security."

The Crown Prince said: "The slogan of Arab national destiny and national security and national defence is not just talk... it is a strategic position that requires planning and programming and action. Otherwise, it would become as it is today, a floating of joint responsibility and an escape from accountability."

Following are major excerpts from the Crown Prince's speech, which he delivered on behalf of His Majesty King Hussein:

"I greet you in the name of His Majesty King Hussein who has delegated me to open this conference and welcome all our guests in Amman wishing your conference all success."

"There is no doubt that it is a coincidence of great meaning that such an intellectual Arab meeting occurs at the University of Jordan which several days ago celebrated along with the Jordanian family the 25th anniversary of its establishment."

"The place and the subject of the meeting symbolise two prominent phenomena in contemporary Arab life."

"The first of the two phenomena reflects the national — regional pattern of development, which is the prevalent pattern today, accompanied by a feeling of pride that results from national achievements. The University of Jordan symbolises this pattern in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan as it is considered one of our national achievements."

"The second phenomenon reflects a feeling of dissatisfaction with the regional effort on its own, which is symbolised by the subject of our meeting — the search in the future of Arab regional order and its relation to national security."

"It is agreed upon these days on the Arab level that the regional developmental pattern, despite its economic, social, cultural and military achievements — remained incapable of fulfilling the most important need of the Arab Nation, which is its survival and continuity as an independent nation under a collective security... which is what made the case of the future of the regional Arab system an outstanding Arab concern."

"This is in fact the theme of our conference here which seeks to throw light on the Arab Order in our present time and its relation with national and pan-Arab security."

"It is almost a general feeling nowadays that despite major economic and social, cultural and military achievements that any one Arab country might have achieved, it will remain far from the minimum level required to meet the needs of the Arab Nation as a whole and far too little in the quest for enabling the Arab Nation to survive as an independent entity enjoying collective security. This situation has no doubt caused the Arab World to reflect with concern on the question of the future of the regional Arab Order."

"A searching look at the Arab situation clearly reveals undeniable Arab countries' efforts for development and for building an intrinsic national force."

"Individual Arab states continue to exert endeavours taking rather divergent lines and aiming at achieving diverse objectives... never coming into congruence to form a sound and real start for formulating a unified Arab vision for serving the common Arab cause... especially the cause of collective Arab security."

"This conference, which is the fruit of cooperation between the Centre of Strategic Studies of the University of Jordan and the Al Ahran Strategic Institute of Cairo, in addition to the participation of Arab intellectuals, should be regarded as a first convergence of intellectual endeavour which we hope will continue, and further enlist the co-operation of other Arab countries and institutions so that we can reach a common goal. Lines running in parallel directions in Arab efforts are bound to leave gaps that allow foreign intervention that can wreak havoc to Arab future."

"Our feelings at present are that hostile winds are blowing towards us from all sides and we wonder whether this is a temporary development which would soon be over or it is a natural result of the changing circumstances or the sum result of a variety of factors."

"Dangers that threaten the stability and security of the Arab countries are immense and numerous. These dangers date back in their roots to the history of foreign domination on our region and the way in which different Arab states were created."

"I realise that you are quite aware of and well-informed about modern Arab history; yet I would like to point out a number of matters which I consider important for this conference."

"The outlines of the establishment of a modern Arab state

began to take shape towards the end of the last century and the start of the 20th century and they came as a natural result of the basic change in the political structure of the Ottoman empire which began to fall under Western European influence at the time."

"The Ottoman empire which ruled the Arab World in the name of religion began to consider the Arabs as subjects of the Ottoman empire's colonies exactly like the colonies of Western nations in Africa and Asia."

"The Great Arab Revolt which broke out in 1916 represented the emergence of an Arab nationalism in Asia oriented towards independence for the Arab World. Once the Ottoman rule receded the Arabs found themselves divided under new Western domination without any independence and unity. As a result, the Arabs embarked on a new form of national struggle with new concepts... though their far-reaching goal was Arab unity."

"Yet the fall of each Arab state under a separate foreign power, totally different in language, culture and administration, caused the struggle to take a rather individual character in separate Arab states."

"As a result, the concept of an Arab Nation remained but without the emergence of a unified Arab Nation unlike the normal events of history. It is known world-wide that the concept of a unified state normally precedes the creation of a unified state, or alternatively a state plays a basic role in creating a concept for unified states like in the case of the United States of America."

"The Arab states won independence towards the end of World War II separately and over different periods of time. Soon afterwards seven Arab states established the Arab League which then served as a symbol and an alternative for a unified Arab Nation. From that time onwards the Arab Nation has been living through a stage characterised with confusion in thought and behaviour. Yet the 22 member states of the Arab League began to compensate for the absence of a unified Arab Nation by undertaking the task of developing their own systems and coordinating matters on a regional basis in the political, cultural, economic and military domains through the establishment of 'joint' 'bonds' or concluding agreements and treaties."

"In this way Arab countries continued to build up their entities in accordance with their resources and their own means. As time passed, the dividing lines among the Arab states deepened and each Arab country began to confront a new type of problem; to reconcile their own individual security interests with the higher Arab interests. This is a delicate situation that we are now facing in the Arab World. The Arabs are now confronting the Arab-Israeli conflict, the civil strife in Lebanon, the Gulf war, the secessionist movement in southern Sudan, the Libyan-Chadian war, the war in the Sahara desert, exhausting Arab resources and Arab blood and Arab efforts as the Arab League proves incapable of taking one serious step to end any of them and it is feared that more such regional conflicts will break out."

"We should remember that in 1967 only two wounds existed in the body of the Arab Nation: those of the Yemen war and Palestine. At present more than six wounds are still open."

"Our defeat in the 1967 war should have brought us back to our senses and to prompt us to have a collective security system but we have failed to do anything like that. This is because we simply have accustomed ourselves to searching for the causes of our tragedies and our problems in the wrong places. This clearly reflects a backward tendency on our part; resorting to initial means of self-defence without striving mentally and reasonably to fathom deep into the facts, thus avoiding the ugly image that was behind our defeat."

"This explains the precipitation in our downward trend towards the consecration of separate Arab entities while the defeat still stares us in the eye crying out and saying that the Arab-Israeli conflict is a national and pan-Arab question, that the slogan we raise about common destiny, common security and common defence should not remain a mere talk, that these matters require a unified strategic stand that requires planning and joint action."

"The way things are going at present reflects a floating of the common responsibility and an escape from the problem."

"After the 1967 war defeat, some Arab thinkers discovered the source of the problem and attributed the defeat to backwardness. But, have we so far tackled the question of backwardness in an effective manner through analysis, and research with a view to working out a proper remedy formula? Have we reached consensus that backwardness is the cause of the problem?"

"I am afraid that by continually repeating this magic word we have lost its real meaning. I do not exaggerate in saying that some of us feel satisfied to use the word as a shield to hide behind, justifying their impotence and their shortcomings. Some of us have understood the meaning of backwardness from its general external framework without delving into its cultural, moral and institutional core."

Backwardness is one of the main elements responsible for our ignorance or our overlooking the meaning of the common destiny which is linked to the collective security and integrated development."

"Backwardness is responsible also for our failure so far to build up a comprehensive concept of all that revolves and happens about us and within us."

"A comprehensive vision can clearly outline to us the meaning of linking together challenges and dangers that we face. How else can we explain our present divergent positions with regard to the Gulf war and all its dimensions?"

"Iran's intransigence and its determination to continue the war against Iraq in the name of Islamic revolution, and Iran's acts of aggression on Kuwait, and Saudi Arabia and its continued threats directed Arab Gulf interests could not have persisted had it not been for the divergent views of the Arab World and different attitudes of its countries."

"We in Jordan have come to realise since the start of the war the far-reaching dimensions of Iran's aggression and we adopted a firm stand from the beginning saying that this war, with all its objectives and its motives, constitutes a grave danger to the Arab Nation and the Arab Order in its entirety. We have been calling for a unified Arab stand to end the war and to launch good neighbourly relations with Iran."

"We in Jordan will not accept to see Oom assuming the role of Istanbul because our Arab Order, as His Majesty the King has said, is the order that we chose and for which our ancestors and our fathers have been struggling to establish since the turn of the present century. We cannot accept any substitute for the Arab Order and will never succumb to a new imperialist rule that conceals the elements of hegemony, usurpation of Arab resources and wealth."

"The regimes in Tehran and Israel are in agreement over one important issue: that of dismembering the Arab Nation in a manner that can facilitate their domination of Arab destiny and achieve their strategy. Iran for its part seeks to expand its sphere of influence through usurping Arab wealth in the name of Islam, and Israel seeks to impose hegemony on the Arabs in the course of serving Western interests. Both regimes constitute a common danger that is increasing in intensity with the advent of foreign powers into the Arab region. We have paved the way for such development through the vacuum we created for ourselves and as a result of our abandoning the concept of collective security."

"Any critic of the economic and political map of the region can easily perceive the relationship between the existing tensions in the Eastern Mediterranean region, like the Arab-Israeli conflict, the situation in Lebanon and the Turkish-Cypriot question on the one hand and the developments in the Gulf region and the

Red Sea on the other. The relationship between these three regions has strategic and demographic dimensions."

"The oil pipeline networks extending from the Gulf to the Red Sea and the Mediterranean through Arabia have in reality linked the territory in a unique complicated manner. This situation has given the Red Sea an added importance which explains the interest of the major powers in that sea and its littoral states."

"We can see that the superpowers interests are taking a new direction, shifting from the Caspian and Black Sea regions towards the Red Sea, and the Gulf where warships and foreign naval forces have come out in a big show. On the demographic side, the migration of manpower from northern Arabia in the Gulf region has created an unprecedented pattern of integration between human and financial resources. Therefore, any event that might occur in any spot of this vast and intertwined region is bound to have its effect on the others. The threat of the Gulf war has left its negative impact on the economies of the Northern Arabian peninsula, and any conflict between countries of the region could lead to the closure of the Red Sea waterway which would lead to a stop in the flow of Arab oil."

"This complexity of relationship means that no country in the region is safe from the ongoing events and developments that might happen inside another country. The Arab-Israeli conflict, the civil strife in Lebanon and the Gulf war are all and together pose a common threat to the rest of the Arab countries in the region. For this reason there is need for the Arab countries to launch genuine cooperation instead of seeking individual endeavours so that they can all avoid real disaster and if they want to achieve collective security."

"We feel that the regional Arab Order, represented in the Arab League and its different agencies and organisations and its charter, is falling apart and for this reason we have convened this conference in order to remind ourselves that the Arab League is ourselves and our countries. Any weakness of the Arab League emanates from within us all and any backing for the Arab League will lead to its development, and we are responsible for all that."

"When I address you about such issues, I draw comfort from the fact that you are all enthusiastic about reform and about a healthy Arab Order and all of you believers in God and the Arab Nation, working to unify its ranks. I wish you success in your noble endeavour."

After the Crown Prince's speech, the conference held its first session under the chairmanship of Dr. Ahmad Sidki Al Dajani to review the first part of a working paper submitted by Jordan. The paper dealt with the "Regional Arab Order — the historical dimension" from the beginning of the 19th century until 1945.

The three-day conference will discuss a number of working papers on the pan-Arab regional order as well as historical perspectives on and future prospects for Arab economic policies.

The conference is being attended by politicians, intellectuals, researchers, historians and leading scholars of the Arab World.

Masri: Next step is Arab-U.S. talks

(Continued from page 1)

Baghdad did not appear to have produced a breakthrough.

Mr. Masri said Chinese officials "looked at the resolution as a landmark which they are ready to respect." He described his visit to China as the head of the Arab delegation as "strengthening the excellent bilateral relations." It was the first visit to China by a Jordanian foreign minister.

During his talks in China and South Korea, Mr. Masri also discussed efforts towards a peaceful settlement to the Arab-Israeli conflict. He said that in talks he had in Peking and Seoul, "we were close in our evaluation" of the situation in the Gulf and the Middle East. Mr. Masri was received by South Korean President Chun Doo Hwan. The

foreign minister also held talks with senior government officials.

In reply to a question, Mr. Masri said he was not aware of reported Jordanian-Egyptian meetings aimed at sending "a joint message" from the foreign ministers of the two countries to Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze and Mr. Shultz who met in New York on Tuesday. The report, published in the local press Tuesday, quoted "informed sources" at the Egyptian Foreign Ministry as saying the so-called message represented "the Egyptian-Jordanian concept" of convening an international peace conference on the Middle East. Mr. Masri said he did not know of any such message.

Perez de Cuellar ends mission

(Continued from page 1)

home its off-stated position that it will accept the U.N. resolution, but only if Iran does the same. Mr. Perez de Cuellar, who described his trip as "a mission of peace and duty," spent two days in the Iranian capital before flying to Baghdad on Sunday night.

In a short statement before his departure, he thanked Iraq for a very warm reception, but refused to answer questions before reporting back to the Security Council.

Western diplomats said they feared Mr. Perez de Cuellar had failed to overcome the main obstacle to implementation of re-

solution 598 — Iran's insistence that Iraq be branded the aggressor in the war.

That in turn could lead to renewed fighting, shattering a fragile truce which has been in place for the secretary general's four-day mission.

"The truce... more or less observed by both sides... was nothing but a courtesy to the secretary general while he was in Tehran and Baghdad," said one diplomat quoted by Reuters said.

Diplomats now fear Mr. Perez de Cuellar's report could lead to lengthy negotiations within the Security Council on whether to opt for an arms embargo against Iran.

Research to simulate human speech progresses slowly

By Thomas Ammann

WHERE is the table? the computer was asked. "Under the apple juice," came the reply.

Scientists developing computers which can speak and be spoken to are likely to come across such gems of logic in their work.

Processing human speech is one of the major challenges that face AI, or artificial intelligence, the sector of informatics that involves teaching computers how to think for themselves.

It is such a big challenge because intelligence can only be computer-simulated once scientists have found out how thought and perception process work in the human brain.

"Speech is the only approach they have. 'Thought processes proper' are simply not visible," says Walter von Hahn. "So statements about intelligence are mainly statements about speech too."

It was Professor von Hahn's computer which gave the apple juice answer.

He heads the Hamburg research unit on information science and artificial intelligence.

He and his associates are among the world's foremost specialists in natural speech dialogue between man and machine.

One of their first projects was the Hamburg speech partner model. It entailed using a keyboard to ask the computer simple questions on a precisely defined mini-world, a living room. It was to answer the questions in an intelligent manner.

It did not just have to know rules of grammar and syntax; it also needed a knowledge of individual objects and relations between them.

Concepts such as table or chair are fairly difficult to explain. How, then, is one to explain to a computer the meaning of gross national product or consciousness?

Progress in AI research will depend to a substantial degree on the extent to which abstract background knowledge can be processed and fed to computer systems.

Even then we still not have solved the riddle of the many and

varied processes that run partly in series when people talk with each other.

In addition to "communicative processes" converting spoken words in signals computers can understand presents serious problems.

That is not surprising. People often forget clearly to pronounce word endings. They mumble and sometimes forget entire words.

Simple computer systems that can recognise individual spoken words from a limited vocabulary are already on the market.

But fluent language, as opposed to individual words, is more difficult. The human brain can distinguish between and identify individual concepts as it hears them mentioned.

A computer first registers a spoken sentence as a continuous acoustic signal it must painstakingly plough through.

Siemens and Philips research scientists have jointly worked on this problem since 1984. Their Spicos project is aimed at analysing and answering questions posed in normal language.

Philips self-assuredly say this task can now be solved at the research level due to progress in algorithm development and computer techniques.

Spicos depends, however, on a specific speaker. Scientists must first prime the system with roughly 200 test sentences spoken by the speaker the computer is to talk with.

Regular Spicos performances are held at the Siemens research centre in Neuperlach, Munich.

What visitors are first shown of the miraculous computer does not, at first glance, seem very spectacular.

All that can be seen is a microphone, a monitor screen and a loudspeaker. The computer itself is in the room next door.

Then comes an echo of science fiction as Robert Sommer of Siemens asks the first question.

"Who made the application to the BMFT?" (The BMFT is the Federal Ministry of Research and Technology in Bonn).

A few minutes later a metallic voice solemnly announces that: "Hoge and Lang made the application to the BMFT." The

assembled Siemens staff are delighted.

The search for the right word is a long, hard slog for the computer. To simplify the process it has been taught a handful of rules.

One is that only about 70 of its vocabulary of 1,000 words can be used to start a sentence.

It breaks down each spoken signal into phonemes, the smallest spoken sound, and works out on the basis of probability which combination of phonemes makes most sense.

It can follow up as many as 6,000 hypotheses simultaneously, although — as the Spicos project's Wolfgang Kupper puts it — the quest can sometimes lead it astray. Then, sooner or later, it gives up.

"You can visualise it as a gigantic paper chase," Kupper says, "with teams that drive off in cars to identify items."

"From time to time they are checked and the cars that are trailing the rest are retired from the race, leaving the rest in the running."

The paper chase is not over until the phonemes have been satisfactorily interpreted. This is done with reference to a computerised lexicon and by means of logical associations.

Internal queries to the Spicos data bank and the answers are, in comparison, little more than a matter of routine.

The excitement increases when the answer is to be converted into synthetic speech. It is pieced together from individual sounds stored in a speech module devised by Philips research scientists in Eindhoven, Holland. The answer resounds from the loudspeaker in a zany Dutch-sounding voice.

Processing questions still takes time, but the procedure is to be speeded up over the next three years.

The computer should by then be able quickly get used to different speakers and to conduct a short conversation by an intelligent question-and-answer routine.

Compared with the megachip Philips and Siemens are also jointly developing, Spicos is small fry, with a staff of 35, and a BMFT

grant of a mere DM 10m.

Yet Klaus-Steffen Isensee, in charge of the project at the Ministry, says speech comprehension systems are among the most important projects with which the BMFT is associated.

Why go to the trouble? Why should one be able to speak to a machine in the same way as we speak to each other?

Computer research scientists are not at a loss for an answer, although they are reluctant to go into details of specific projects at present.

"There are situations in which non-verbal communication is extremely tortuous," they say. "Speech simply comes most naturally."

In the final analysis it is not just a matter of boosting computer performance but of simplifying computer controls.

Even people who aren't computer buffs are to be enabled to handle computers — at work, for instance.

Given speech recognition, quality control staff on car assembly lines could, for instance, relay shortcomings straight to the computer in charge of production planning.

Warehouse staff could, by the same token, computer inventory their stock via microphones.

Aircraft may one day be piloted by means of spoken instructions or telephones be made to dial automatically on being told the number.

A digitalised telephone network would provide a wide range of uses extending from automatic information services to simultaneous interpreter services for telephone calls with other countries.

If these systems were to work they would, however, need to be totally independent of any one speaker — and much more intelligent than present-day systems.

No-one will venture to suggest that that might be the case.

Is this a Brave New World prospect? Before we can make intelligent computers that understand the spoken word we will need to learn much, much more about ourselves — *Deutsches Allgemeines Sonntagsblatt, Hamburg*.

Albania poised to grab medal in Mediterranean volleyball

LATAKIA, Syria (R) — Albania, taking part in its first major sporting festival, made sure of winning a medal at the Mediterranean Games when its women's volleyball team beat Greece on Tuesday.

The hard-fought 15-5, 15-17, 15-9, 15-12, victory ensured that the Albanians will get at least a bronze medal and they are on course for the gold.

They are the only unbeaten side after three games in the six-country round-robin tournament and their remaining opponents, Syria and Lebanon, are among the weaker teams.

The tiny, maverick communist state, slowly emerging from 40 years of isolation, is competing in only a few sports at the two-week 18-country games and appears to have chosen well.

In the four-nation women's basketball tournament, the Albanians are also the favourites after beating Turkey 88-52 on Monday.

Italy looked set to win more gold medals in the swimming pool after its swimmers recorded some of the fastest times in heats on Tuesday morning.

Greco-Roman wrestling

Turkey and Egypt joined the medals table on Tuesday when the bronze was awarded for third place in 10 categories of Greco-Roman wrestling.

Turkey took three, Yugoslavia and Greece two each and Italy,

Egypt and France one apiece.

Swimming

Italy's dominant swimming team pushed towards still more gold medals Tuesday in the Mediterranean Games, while Turkey broke into the medal table with three bronzes in wrestling.

Gymnastics

Only a sweep by Spain's gymnastics team in the women's all-round competition Monday night prevented the Italians from scooping up every gold medal in sight during the day.

In the 100-metre breaststroke, Rosella Pescatori won her heat Tuesday by a full six seconds in 1:14.48 ahead of Greece's Athina Zitrou, and Italians qualified easily for all six evening swimming finals.

Entering the fourth day of competition at the 18-nation event, Italy had captured 17 gold medals in swimming, diving and gymnastics. Runner-up Spain has only two.

"We came with the best (Italian) team," said Italian swimming coach Constantine Dennerlein. He said he wanted to "make

sure that the people are used to swimming until October" because of next year's Olympic Games in Seoul, South Korea.

France, which finished sixth to Italy's fifth in last month's European Swimming Championships, left 10 of its best swimmers at home to rest, said team coach Jacques Meslier.

Neither team trained for the Mediterranean Games.

Wrestling

Turkey pulled out three bronze medals in wrestling Tuesday with victories by Sumer Kocak in the 68-kilogramme class, Serhat Karadag in the 57-kilogramme class and Muhammet Ozturk in the 52-kilogramme class.

Matches to decide the gold and silver were due to be held Tuesday night.

Yugoslavia's Vladislav Kocovic outpointed Syrian Mohammad Alhams 5-0 in the top weight division for the bronze. Compatriot Gradimir Dedic took a medal in the 62-kilogramme class, beating Giuseppe Genile of Italy by disqualification.

Greece added bronzes with victories by Managiot Mikilidas and Dimitris Thanopoulos in the 100-kilogramme and 82-kilogramme classes.

Egypt's Kamal Abdeh won bronze in the 90-kilogramme class. France's Martial Mschler won at 74-kilogramme and Sergio Armentis of Italy at 48.

Pyongyang seeks direct Olympic talks with Seoul

LAUSANNE, Switzerland (AP) — North Korea's Olympic chief asked Tuesday for direct talks with South Korea Olympic officials to try to overcome "fundamental differences" in their positions over where sports in next summer's games should be held.

North Korea also called for a fifth set of joint meetings with the International Olympic Committee (IOC) "at the earliest possible time," after the direct North-South discussions.

The IOC, which has mediated the dispute for the last two years, reiterated that it was ready to hold bilateral talks with North Korea next month, but only if Pyongyang first accepted a five-point package proposed in July.

"The position of the IOC remains unchanged. We are still awaiting a reply from North Korea," Michele Verdier, the IOC spokeswoman, said.

She also said that invitations to the 1988 games would be issued as scheduled Thursday, one year before the Olympics begin.

IOC President Juan Antonio Samaranch was unavailable for comment on the North Korean letter to Seoul, although he said Monday that he would not object to direct talks.

Verdier said there would be no formal IOC response to North Korea's letter until a copy was received in Lausanne.

But several senior committee officials portrayed the call for direct talks as a relatively minor development.

"I'd take it as a neutral indication at this point," Richard Pound, an IOC vice president from Canada, said.

"We've traded our proposal for their proposal, our proposal for their proposal, and there has not been much movement there. ... what we have to do is assume there is a genuine interest (by North Korea) in hosting the event."

Kim Un-Yong, an IOC member from South Korea and a vice president of the Seoul Olympic Organising Committee, said direct talks would only delay IOC participation in any agreement reached.

"The games belong to the IOC. Why avoid the IOC?" he said. "It just has to come back here anyway."

In his letter, a translated version of which was obtained by reporters covering the IOC executive board meetings in Lausanne, North Korean Olympic Committee President Kim Yn Sun asked Kim Chong-Ha, president of the South Korean Olympic Committee, to agree to a North-South meeting "in order to break through the deadlock of the tripartite (IOC-mediated) meetings."

An ailing Lendl claims third consecutive U.S. Open crown

NEW YORK (R) — Ivan Lendl, playing on emotion and will when his ailing body threatened to fail him, beat Mats Wilander in four sets on Monday to win his third consecutive U.S. Open men's singles tennis title.

Lendl won 6-7, 6-0, 7-6, 6-4 despite feeling "lousy" from the effects of influenza and said afterwards, "I just didn't expect to last that long with Mats today, and I can't believe I won this match."

"I was out of juice for three and a half sets. It had to be the strength of mind and a little bit of luck," he said.

"Winning three times is something I never dreamed of," said the 27-year-old Czechoslovak, whose victory tied American John McEnroe for most consecutive titles here.

Earlier in the day, Martina Navratilova also scored a historic U.S. Open triple when she added two doubles titles to her singles championship.

Navratilova and Spaniard Emilio Sanchez beat Americans Betsy Nagelsen and Paul Annacone 6-4, 6-7, 7-6 in the mixed doubles final after she and fellow American Pam Shriver pulled out a 5-7, 6-4, 6-2 victory over Kathy Jordan of the U.S. and Australian Elizabeth Smylie in the women's doubles final.

She became the first player to win a U.S. Open Triple Crown since Australian Margaret Court did it in 1970.

The top-seeded Lendl, 27, said



Wilander



Lendl

if it had been any other tournament he would not have played in the semifinals on Saturday or in the final, which lasted four hours, 47 minutes.

In the first set, he said, "I felt heavy, slow and dizzy. I had to let the overheads become, because I couldn't hit them."

"I would feel terrible almost like falling over. Then the next three points I'd feel great."

The third-seeded Wilander, working on Lendl's weaker backhand, broke the Czechoslovak in the fifth game of the first set but Lendl broke the 23-year-old Swede in the eighth game. They then held service to force a tiebreaker.

In the first of the match's two tiebreakers, Wilander simply outlasted Lendl to win 9-7. It was Lendl's first loss of a set in the tournament.

But in the second set, Lendl

The fourth set was perhaps the best played in the match as the two groundstroking machines came to the net more often to put away winners.

"I was getting cramps here and there for the last set and a half," Lendl said. "I played on the emotion and emotion falls quickly low, especially if I had lost the last set in the tiebreaker."

Lendl, who has won 71 of his last 75 matches in hardcourts, survived a break point in the first game of the set to hold serve.

The games went on serve and included some sparkling rallies, particularly in the ninth game when Wilander received a standing ovation for a backhand winner down the line after a long rally.

But Lendl held serve to reach 5-4 and then in the 10th game won the title on his second match point with a crisp backhand return down the line.

"The difference is he served really good when he had to serve well," Wilander said.

"He played better on the important points. And that's all I can say," Wilander said.

"It's just unbelievable," Lendl said. "If someone had told me three years ago after I had lost three open in a row, that I'd win three in a row, I just wouldn't have believed it. I'd say the person is crazy."

"This one will be special because I really didn't expect to win," he added.

Japan trounces Nepal in pre-Olympic soccer

TOKYO (AP) — Japan scored three goals in the first half and went on to beat Nepal 5-0 Tuesday in the final round of the Asian Eastern Zone Soccer Tournament for the 1988 Olympics in South Korea.

Japan, which had blanked Nepal 5-0 at the 1986 Asian Games, went on the attack from the start, outshooting its foes 12 to 3 in the first 45 minutes before 11,000 spectators at the national stadium.

Veteran Yasuhiko Okudera, who once played in West Germany, scored Japan's first goal at 16:00. Within three minutes after that, Japan netted two more goals.

Japan continued its attack in

the second half with 16 shots, including three by Toshio Matsura, who scored a goal in the 74th minute.

It was Japan's first victory against no defeats and one draw in the round. Nepal is 0-1.

Japan is to meet Nepal again in Tokyo Friday as Japan, Nepal, China and Thailand battle in the zone's double round-robin final round. One of the four teams will represent the zone in the Seoul Olympics.

Japan and Thailand fought to a scoreless tie in Bangkok on Sept. 2 and the two met again in Tokyo on Sept. 26. So far, Thailand has one draw against no victories and defeats. China has not played yet.

Marsh's retirement stuns handlers, boxing world

LONDON (R) — British world light-welterweight champion Terry Marsh stunned his own handlers as well as the rest of the boxing world on Monday when he said he was retiring because he had epilepsy.

Manager Frank Warren said he was "absolutely stunned" by the news of Marsh's illness, and had been with his fighter on Sunday when the International Boxing Federation (IBF) champion signed a contract to meet American Frankie Warren in London in December. Trainer Ernie Fossey said: "When we saw him yesterday everything was fine and I left Terry and Frankie Warren to sort out the details and sign the contract. Everyone was happy and Terry over the word."

In announcing his retirement, Marsh said that neurologists told him two weeks ago that one punch could not only wreck his

career but kill him. Marsh, 29, said he became aware of the problem after winning the European light-welterweight crown in 1985 when he suffered a seizure but had not sought medical help then.

"As far as I'm concerned this contract is now just a piece of toilet paper to me," said Warren. "I can't believe Terry has done this. Ernie and I both think of ourselves as his close friends, and we would have hoped he could have shared this with us. Naturally, we'd have done anything we could to help."

Said Fossey: "I've known Terry for many years, trained him for a long time, and he is a close friend. I would never have let him in the ring unless I was sure he was 100 per cent fit."

"This has come as a total shock and I'm a little bit upset about the way we have had to find out about it."

SPORTS IN BRIEF

Motorcyclist to appeal 15-month ban

WOLVERHAMPTON, England (AP) — American speedway motorcyclist Sam Ermolenko said Tuesday he will appeal a 15-month ban imposed by the sport's ruling body for failing to take a dope test. The 25-year-old Californian, who rides for Wolverhampton in the British League, said he was "shattered" by the severity of the ban which runs until January 1989. The speedway control board found the American guilty of failing to provide a urine sample for testing after an England-United States international at Hackney, East London. Ermolenko said that, having been asked to provide a sample for drug testing, he forgot and went home.

Pfaff voted world's best goalkeeper

BONN (R) — Bayern Munich's Jean-Marie Pfaff has been voted the world's best goalkeeper by the West German-based International Federation of Football History and Statistics (IFFHS). The Belgian international was a clear winner from Rinat Dasayev of the Soviet club Spartak Moscow and Italian keeper Walter Zenga of Inter Milan. The IFFHS said the first of what is to be an annual poll was carried out by its members in every continent but only one representative from each country was allowed to vote. Pfaff will receive his award before Saturday's match in Munich with West German League leaders Werder Bremen.

Top seed bows out in Singapore Open

SINGAPORE (R) — Unseeded Sohail Qaiser of Pakistan caused a sensation at the start of the Singapore Open squash championships on Tuesday when he beat top seeded New Zealander and world number three Stuart Davenport. Davenport dominated the first games, but a determined Qaiser fought back to beat him 4-9, 9-5, 9-7 in their first round clash. A jubilant Qaiser said: "I thought all was lost when I gave away the first set. But somehow or other, I summoned everything I had to overcome Stuart. This is the happiest moment in my life." Australia's Ricki Hill, seeded six, had a very comfortable victory over Singapore's Zainal Abidin 9-0, 9-0, 9-2 and Jonas Gornierup of Sweden, unseeded, upset Egypt's Gamal Awad, seeded 16, 3-9, 9-5, 9-3, 2-9, 10-9.

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LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following were the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Tuesday.

One Sterling	1.6395/6405	U.S. dollars
One U.S. dollar	1.3165/75	Canadian dollar
	1.8165/75	West German marks
	2.0445/55	Dutch guilders
	1.5065/75	Swiss francs
	37.72/75	Belgian francs
	6.0650/0700	French francs
	1312/1313	Italian lira
	144.10/20	Japanese yen
	6.390/50	Swedish crowns
	6.6575/6625	Norwegian crowns
	7.0025/75	Danish crowns
One ounce of gold	458.00/50	U.S. dollars

LONDON STOCK MARKET

LONDON (R) — Share prices drifted lower during the afternoon after a mainly mixed session, shadowing the trend on Wall Street which opened lower on Tuesday, dealers said.

By 1421 GMT, the FTSE 100 index was down 7.1 points to 2,264.7, after an earlier low of 2,263 at 0902 GMT, but volume throughout the day has been at minimal levels.

One dealer said, "most of the institutions I've been speaking to today don't really want to get too involved in the market. 'She went on to say some investors have been curtailing their activities because of the large number of recent cash calls and ahead of next month's BP share flotation."

Friday's announcement of August U.K. bank lending figures was being cited as another factor keeping participants to the sidelines. Analyst forecasts for bank lending focus on a rise of about £2.8 billion in August, well below the £4.9 billion July surge which upset the markets so much last month.

Most investors have taken note of U.K. Chancellor of the Exchequer Nigel Lawson's prediction of below four per cent inflation by the end of the year, but are still worried that inflationary pressures could be building up in the economy.

Thursday brings U.K. average earnings for July, which will also be scanned closely for signs of accelerating growth.

FORECAST FOR WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 16, 1987

YOUR DAILY HOROSCOPE

From the Carol Ringer Institute

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Be sure you understand exactly what others say today, or you'll let yourself in for an unfortunate misunderstanding. You'll be able to show your talents well this evening, but don't be boastful.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19): Get to work fixing up your home today, but don't invite anyone in to visit. Avoid becoming involved in an argument between a family member and an outsider.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20): Take time out from your routine to work on your appearance. Please some investments which will lighten your spirits. Work on finding needed information.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21): Work on establishing more harmony at home. Don't take any risks if you go out with your mate this evening. Put pleasures aside for now and be practical.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21): Leave home early today and get started on shopping and visiting, but only for constructive purposes. Be well prepared with data for some important writing.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 23): Drive carefully, and be sure to check your change when shopping. Do something to improve your property, and set up a new budget. Postpone a visit for now.

VIRGO (Aug. 24 to Sept. 22): Don't let yourself become confused over monetary affairs. Use your fine sense of humor to please some good friends later today. Carefully consider your situation.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): It would be wise to listen to suggestions from a superior since your ideas are not so good now. Be sure your mate agrees with your plans for a sapphire tonight.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): Don't permit anyone to involve you in a crooked scheme, or you could get into a good deal of trouble. Get out socially with a good friend and have fun tonight.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): A gal could unwittingly give you the wrong advice, so don't rush blindly into anything. Plan carefully before introducing your mate around.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20): Don't try to wrench a favor from a superior, but join an associate at some new kind of activity. You may be forgotten today, so jot down notes on important matters.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19): Avoid a new contact who has an eye on your assets, and keep busy with those who are helpful to you. Do something nice for your mate, but be practical about it.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20): Forget those dull routines, and find some new activity which can bring you advancement. A little risk may work out fine today, but be sure not to push your luck.

If You're Born Today: He or she will have a very analytical mind and the ability to always rely on his or her own judgment. Outside influences could easily distract your property, so teach him or her to focus the attention on the project at hand. Your child could excel at nearly any profession, so don't push any certain idea. Let free choice reign.

"The Stars Impel, they do not compel." What you make of your life is largely up to you!

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Top Soviet official attacks pricing system

MOSCOW (R) — The Economic reforms of Kremlin leader, Mr. Mikhail Gorbachev, will fail unless the Soviet Union cuts the huge subsidies that cushion its people against rising prices, a senior official said on Monday.

A newspaper article by Mr. Valentin Pavlov, head of the State Commission for Prices, set out the theoretical basis for a Communist Party decision to brave popular discontent and raise food and other prices from Jan. 1, 1990.

"It is perfectly clear that the price system, in place with minimal changes for a protracted period, must be replaced," Mr. Pavlov said in Kommunist, the party's main theoretical organ. Soviet citizens have voiced alarm about the reforms, seen by Western analysts as among the most politically-sensitive of the Gorbachev era. Articles like Mr. Pavlov's have sought to awaken public opinion to the need for change.

Pledging unprecedented reform, he attacked policies dating to the 1964-82 rule of the late Leonid Brezhnev.

Rising subsidies robbed the state of money needed to invest in and modernise the economy, he said, giving a graphic account of marketplace distortions.

Meat, he said, was an example. You could buy 2.5 kilograms in a state shop for the same price as the state paid for one kilogram.

Subsidies for agriculture had more than quadrupled since 1955

but shop food prices were little changed. So the state paid 1.8 times more than consumers for milk, 1.9 times more for potatoes, 2.5 times more for butter and 3.1 times more for beef.

The resulting drain on state coffers depressed wages and, since the state had to get some money back somehow, resulted in artificially high prices on consumer goods other than food.

Thus, a good pair of men's shoes cost about 70 roubles (\$105) and a colour television some 700 (\$1,050). For a medium-size family car you might pay up to 10,000 roubles (\$15,000).

The average monthly wage is just 200 roubles (\$300). The state compensated for subsidies in the Brezhnev era by higher sales tax on alcohol, tobacco and prestige products and on imports of ready-made goods, Mr. Pavlov said.

A Gorbachev anti-alcohol campaign and efforts to boost self-reliance in production dictated a break with this practice, and ruled out a rise in sales tax on other products.

Mr. Pavlov said the state now planned to introduce competition in industry and let consumer demand influence production.

Chronic shortages of food and consumer goods that people wanted, and overstocking of things that they did not, would only get worse unless prices began reflecting economic reality.

Recent Kremlin economic reforms such as profit-and-loss responsibility for industry and agri-

culture could not work, he said, so long as prices distorted production costs.

Mr. Pavlov said salaries, pensions and social benefits would rise along with prices to preclude a drop in living standards.

In theory, improved economic results through the overall effect of the reforms will generate sufficient revenues to more than compensate the state for additional outlays to workers.

"With the existing prices we cannot have a new economic mechanism, we cannot fully stimulate the growth of efficient production and guarantee economic equilibrium," Mr. Pavlov said.

"This is why at present it is not a question of partial, successive corrections of this or that type of prices and tariffs, but of the radical reforms of the entire price system," he noted.

The editors of Kommunist said they expected Mr. Pavlov's article to generate a broad response from readers concerned about the effects of price rises on their lives. They promised to print a selection of their comments.

In another article, Pravda, the Communist Party newspaper, hit out at Soviet engineering industry on Tuesday for holding up national modernisation and reconstruction.

An editorial noted that speeding up the development of machine-building was set as a priority at the 27th party congress last year, in line with Mr. Gorbachev's reconstruction and re-

newal programme.

"Nowadays no one needs convincing of the crucial role of machine building in the renewal of the country's production potential," the paper said, adding that a special commission had been set up by Mr. Gorbachev soon after the congress.

But eight months later, according to official figures, machine building output was showing a deficit of 1,700 million roubles (\$2,550 million), Pravda said.

It noted that all sectors of the industry had failed to fulfil plan requirements and that the shortfall was growing month by month.

"This is imposing difficult conditions on many enterprises in all sectors of the economy," the paper went on.

The problem was particularly acute in the instrument-making and electronic industries, which had become crucial for progress in all sectors, Pravda said.

It noted that "nowadays any piece of machinery or equipment without electronic components is nothing more than a lump of metal."

The paper said much of the problem was caused by management and workers thinking and working in the old way.

"In every department and machine-building enterprise there must be a definite programme or renewal and modernisation. Such programmes exist, but they are frequently being forgotten and not carried out," Pravda declared.

Australian budget stuns financial markets

CANBERRA (R) — Australia's Labour government, fresh from its election triumph in July, stunned financial markets on Tuesday when it unveiled a nearly-balanced budget.

Treasurer Paul Keating told parliament the government would slash its deficit to 27 million dollars (\$19.7 million) for the 1987/88 fiscal year ending June 30 from 2.7 billion dollars (\$2 billion) in 1986/87.

The deficit, the lowest in 17 years and the smallest as a percentage of national income for more than 30 years, surprised financial analysts. They had forecast a shortfall of 500 million

dollars (\$365 million) to one billion dollars (\$730 million).

"This government, having inherited a prospective budget deficit of almost 10,000 million dollars (\$7.3 billion), the largest in the nation's history, has in the space of just five budgets wiped that dismal legacy out," Mr. Keating said.

"What is more, this monumental achievement has been accomplished while keeping to our election commitments not to increase taxes and not to make major additional spending cuts," he added.

He said the sharp reduction in the government's demand on sav-

ings would release them for private investment to boost the all-ling trade performance and cut the massive foreign debt.

Economists and financial analysts welcomed the budget as a positive move. "It looks pretty good to me," said Midland Bank chief economist, Ms. Helen Camp.

"The budget seems to be based on very plausible economic forecasts and would help further bring down interest rates and strengthen the Australian dollar," said Lloyds Bank chief economist, Mr. Warren Bird.

Mr. Keating set the outline for the budget with 3.5 billion dollars

(\$2.6 billion) of spending cuts in a mini-budget in May.

The government's cut in spending of 2.4 per cent after adjustment for inflation is the biggest in 35 years, he said.

"The decisions which cut outlays by 3,500 million dollars (\$2.6 billion). This year will produce the same reductions next year. In other words, the savings are ongoing," he said.

Mr. Keating said Australia's economic growth would increase modestly in 1988 but warned that its performance would continue to be constrained until it overcame the fundamental problem of its trade imbalance.

Indonesia cracks down on corrupt taxmen

JAKARTA (R) — The Indonesian government has sacked or disciplined 200 tax officials as part of a crackdown on corruption, the head of the tax department said.

He told a group of editors on Monday the crackdown was part

of a campaign to double the government's tax revenues within five years.

Tax director, General Saluman Alihan Tjakradjaya, said 200 tax officials were sacked or disciplined as part of measures to restore the integrity of the tax

department.

He said experts from the United States, the Netherlands, West Germany and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) had been brought in to increase efficiency and help with auditing reports, particularly of major multinational companies.

"All those efforts are aimed at improving the integrity of tax officials, which is far more difficult than improving the awareness of the business society to pay taxes," he declared during a one-day conference on Indonesian taxation.

Finance Minister Radius Prawiro urged the press to report any incidents of cheating or corruption within the government tax department.

The government on Monday also announced it was pleased

with the work of the Swiss-based Societe General De Surveillance which was brought in to check imports and exports through major ports.

Indonesia appointed the company in 1985 to take over customs duties after widespread corruption was reported within the customs department.

Some officials have called for all ministers, high-ranking civil servants and members of parliament to make declarations of their financial status before taking office.

Mr. Burhanuddin Lopa, an assistant to the minister of justice, told a meeting of the ruling Golkar Party last week that most of the officials found guilty of corruption were in the upper levels of government.

Gulf Arab states continue high oil output, traders say

BAHRAIN (R) — Most Gulf oil producers are not yet heeding OPEC's call to cut production to comply with their output ceilings, and this may depress prices, industry sources in the region said.

"Why should they lower production? The spot market prices are mostly stable and there is no factor yet to deter these (Gulf) countries from producing below their August levels," one oil trader said.

However, they warn continued high output levels may lead to lower prices in the coming weeks with high stocks of crude in world refineries looming in the background.

In August, Kuwait was producing as much as 1.8 million barrels a day despite its quota of 996,000 barrels and the UAE 1.65 million barrels above its quota of 948,000 barrels per day.

OPEC's biggest producer, Saudi Arabia, seen as sticking to its quota of 4.343 million barrels a day, might put pressure behind the scenes on its allies Kuwait and UAE to stem their production, the sources said.

But Saudi Arabian Oil Minister Hisham Nazer, in a Middle East Economic Survey interview, said the kingdom would not take any personal and individual action. He also ruled out any possibility of his country cutting production to bolster the OPEC price accord.

The decision in Vienna to send a three-man committee to the Gulf to discuss overproduction failed to have any impact on the oil community, which questions its effectiveness.

"The meetings (in Vienna) were a ceremony. The quota violations will continue unless OPEC as a whole agrees to cut output," one oil industry executive said.

The three-man committee, headed by OPEC President Rihwanu Lukman, starts its Gulf tour on Oct. 5, seeking commitments from each head of state to stick to the assigned quota, Indonesian Oil Minister Subroto said on Monday.

Gulf oil producers stepped up production after Middle East tensions in July sent oil prices higher, causing an oil glut and slashing prices around \$3 in August.

The bulk of up to three million barrels of estimated overproduc-

S. Arabia, Sweden sign strategic oil reserve deal

BAHRAIN (R) — Saudi Arabia has revived a decade-old plan to build an extensive network of underground tanks to store oil products, signing a deal with Sweden for technical assistance to start the project.

The agreement was announced in a Saudi defence ministry statement carried by the official Saudi Press Agency on Monday.

Industry experts say the project could cost the world's largest oil exporter around \$4 billion.

The tanks would be located mainly at military sites in the kingdom and would guarantee supplies to the Saudi armed forces, diplomats said.

They expected the first storage

tanks to be built near Yanbu, the main Red Sea oil export terminal on the other side of the Arabian Peninsula from its Gulf oil fields.

Work on a similar project in Yanbu was abandoned several years ago after being partially completed.

The agreement was signed on the Swedish side by the Board for Fortifications and Civil Defence board and paves the way for two Swedish construction firms, ABV A.B. and Skanska A.B., to carry out the construction contracts.

The first stage, worth \$156 to \$312 million, will consist of building roads and camps, drawing up projects and a major geotechnical research programme.

THE Daily Crossword by Jeffrey Shamon

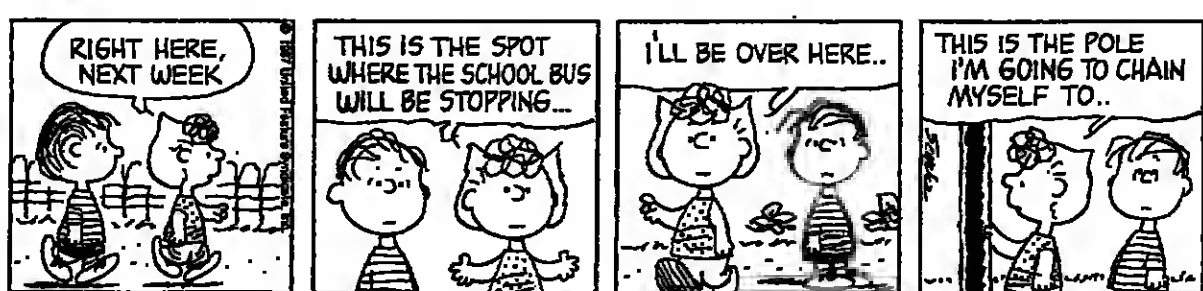
ACROSS

- Form
- God of war
- Swelling
- Pathways
- Gambling city
- Old-time
- Theme song
- Neutron
- exclamation
- Environmental
- ack.
- Prevalence
- Alternative
- The hell for a
- seller
- Golden brown
- Poseidon's
- son
- Decreases
- Proscribed
- Sp. house
- Over legality
- Request
- Group of three
- works
- Agreement
- Red s.p.
- Harvest
- Presently
- Actor Sal
- Handwriting
- Prepares a
- floor again
- Word seen at
- gas stations
- Free ticket
- Admire
- Hero
- Extensive
- "Vice"
- Angry
- Lined up
- the
- Family
- Phisher
- Headline
- abbr.
- Actor Nick

DOWN

- Do. in
- Possess
- Holiness
- appearance
- Football part
- Property
- Sports scene
- Tulsa book
- Chemical
- compound
- Answer
- Set into a
- surface
- Humid
- Or
- philosopher
- Plastic wrap
- Swedish city
- Shrine
- Type type
- abbr.
- Friends
- Forest
- 1 and 66 s.p.
- "Jane"
- Keaton film
- Dead
- Clark
- Thorax
- Vanilla boats
- Marl
- Supposed to
- be
- Author
- Norman
- Scott — Marie
- East
- Furnish with
- tunde
- Sleep
- ground
- Yard shrine
- Islands
- Exotic
- Comptroller's
- delight
- UN agcy.

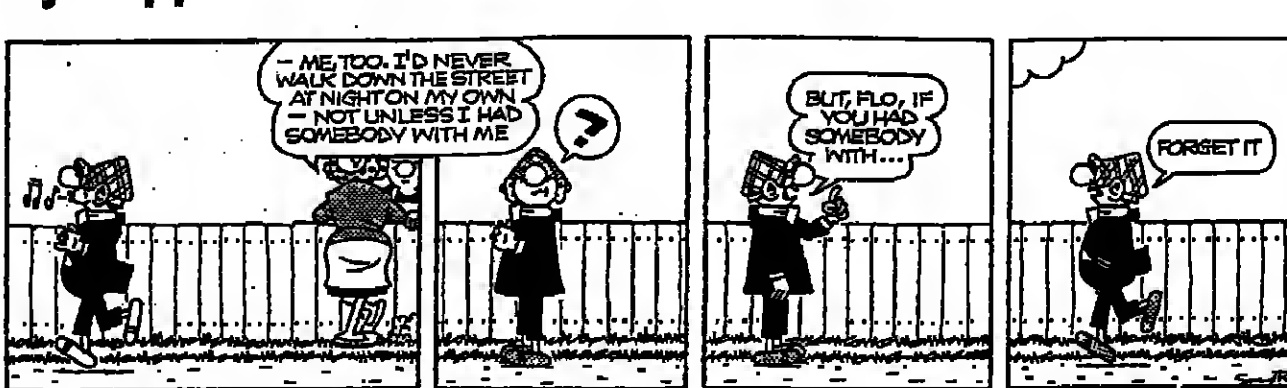
Peanuts



Mutt'n' Jeff



Andy Capp



THE BETTER HALF. By Harris



JUMBLE. THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

CUHLG

KALEY

YERRAT

SHAWCE

Should I—or shouldn't I?

THAT INDECISIVE WIMP WAS ALWAYS WORRYING ABOUT THIS.

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print answer here: THE "O O O O O O O O O O"

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: POUCH OCTET BAKERY HEARSE

Answer: When there are two sides to any question a slick politician does this—TAKES BOTH

Philippine officials lash out at Aquino enemies

MANILA (R) — Philippine officials, recovering from a bloody coup attempt that nearly toppled President Corazon Aquino, lashed out at her opponents on Tuesday but said a drive to re-structure the government would be delayed.

National Security Council Chief Noel Soriano called the leader of the Aug. 28 coup attempt a liar and suggested the military revolt, the fifth since Mrs. Aquino came to power last year, had powerful political backing.

He did not name anybody, but said Col. Gregorio "Gringo" Honasan would not have led the uprising "if there were no collaborators somewhere behind the scenes providing the funding (preparing) to emerge as the new dictators of this country."

Mr. Soriano's remarks signalled a tougher government line towards the rebels after days of taunting by the fugitive colonel, who has been glorified in Philippine newspapers and television while he evades a massive manhunt.

"I wonder what he would be saying in the military junta today if his group had succeeded in overthrowing the government of President Aquino and had killed her and her family," Mr. Soriano said.

Press Secretary Teodoro Benigno told reporters on Tuesday Mrs. Aquino was likely to name a new cabinet this week but added that deciding on replacements had not been easy.

Mr. Soriano said appointments had been delayed because some of the "approached to fill vacancies had turned down the offers."

Col. Honasan became a folk hero for his role in the February,

1986, civilian-backed military revolt that drove Ferdinand Marcos into exile in Hawaii and brought Mrs. Aquino to power. He has claimed the revolt was an attempt to draw attention to military grievances.

He vowed not to surrender but said his group did not plan any more attacks.

The revolt deepened divisions within the government and led to the mass resignations of all 26 ministers last Wednesday, sparking the worst political crisis Mrs. Aquino has faced.

Official sources have said senior officials expected to be replaced include Finance Secretary Jaime Ongpin, Central Bank Governor Jose Fernandez and Mrs. Aquino's controversial Executive Secretary Joker Arroyo.

Meanwhile Communist rebels have doubled attacks on government forces since last month's bloody coup attempt, but the Philippines' defence chief believes that a mutinous army poses a graver danger to the nation's future.

Defence Secretary Rafael Ilo, at a closed meeting of the military high command on Monday, strongly appealed for army unity so that the government could quell threats from the left and the right.

"Indeed, the most serious threat for the moment is from within," Gen. Ilo declared, referring to divisions in the military.

"Unless we are able to rectify the situation and reunite soon enough... this nation is in grave danger," Gen. Ilo said, according to a transcript of his speech obtained by Reuters from military sources.

He asked the generals to "nip in the bud" any further signs of mutiny and said soldiers must be told that military rule was anathema in a democracy like the Philippines.

"We are an armed forces divided. The division is deep and wide," Gen. Ilo said.

In the latest incident, 11 soldiers and two militiamen were killed on Sunday when about 200 Communist New People's Army (NPA) rebels overpowered an army patrol outside southern Davao City, the army said on Tuesday.

Military field officers said there were no confirmed NPA casualties but that villagers reported seeing the guerrillas dragging away 18 wounded companions during the five-hour battle.

The military said 75 encounters with rebels had broken out since the Aug. 28 army mutiny and 64 of them were initiated by the guerrillas.

In a similar 15-day period before the unsuccessful coup, 32 battles were reported around the country, it said.

NPA leaders announced recently they had ordered their 22,000-strong army to take advantage of military splits by stepping up their offensive around the country.

President Aquino, who also addressed the meeting on Monday, pledged her government's full backing for the military's anti-insurgency war.

Pope supports American Indian rights

PHOENIX, Arizona (R) — Pope John Paul came to the heart of Apache country and told thousands of American Indians their past oppression by the white man must be acknowledged.

In one of the most colourful events of his U.S. tour, the Pope was blessed with an eagle feather passed repeatedly through smoke at a meeting in this desert city of 10,000 Indians from all over North America.

The Pope was greeted by Indians wearing dozens of different tribal costumes.

To repeated applause at the gathering of Catholic Indians in an indoor auditorium, the Pontiff said the encounter between native Americans and whites had been "a harsh and painful reality for your peoples."

"The cultural oppression, the injustices, the disruption of your life and of your traditional societies must be acknowledged," he said.

But the Pope hit a controversial note by praising Father Junipero Serra, an 18th century Spanish priest, who is a candidate for beatification.

Critics say Fr. Serra berded Indians into slavery at his missions, flogged them if they tried to escape and introduced European diseases which decimated the population. The Pope said Fr. Serra deserved special mention for defending the rights of Indians.

But afterwards Rupert Costa, a leader of the Californian Cahulla tribe and president of the American Indian Historical Society, told reporters the Pontiff "doesn't know anything about it."

Another Indian leader — Alfredo Antone, vice-president of a community of Pima Indians — told the Pope that native Americans wanted a greater participation in the church with more representation as bishops and priests and fuller inclusion of aspects of their own culture in the sacraments.

In speeches earlier on Monday, the Pope urged compassion for AIDS victims and strongly distanced the church's stance on medical ethics, including its opposition to test tube fertilisation, abortion, euthanasia and genetic engineering.

The Vatican has denied that Pope John Paul, in a homily at a mass in Texas, gave support to U.S. religious workers providing sanctuary to Central American refugees who are in the United States illegally.

The move followed a request for a clarification of the Pope's comments by the U.S. Immigration and Naturalisation Service (INS) in Washington.

Boeing to research rail launchers for MX

WASHINGTON (R) — The U.S. Air Force on Monday awarded Boeing Aerospace Company \$235.5 million contract to find out if the 10-warhead MX nuclear missile can be mounted on railroad cars to avoid Soviet attack.

The air force said Boeing won over Martin Marietta of Denver in a competition to find out if the intercontinental missile could be stationed at U.S. Air Force bases and moved around on the nation's rail system in an emergency.

Congress has authorised 50 MX missiles to be based in underground silos in the western United States, but refused to provide funds for 50 more unless they can be made safer from attack.

The air force said in a letter to Senator Sam Nunn on Monday that Boeing is expected to complete its tests of a rail-basing mode by July 1992. The Georgia Democrat heads the Senate Armed Services Committee.

The United States currently has no mobile, land-based intercontinental missiles. The Soviet Union has deployed its single-warhead SS-25 missile on rolling truck launchers and is in the process of deploying the much bigger SSX-24 on rail cars, according to Pentagon.

The Defence Department estimated in June that it could cost the United States \$9.1 billion to mount 50 MX missiles on rail cars. That followed President Reagan's recommendation last December that a mobile mode be

sought for the missile.

The air force has already placed 22 MX missiles in underground silos at F.E. Warren Air Force Base in Wyoming and has been studying bases in 10 other states as possible "garrisons" for rail-mounted missiles.

At the same time the rail mode is being examined for the MX, the United States is going ahead with development of a single-warhead intercontinental missile known as the "Midgetman," which would be trucked about on its own rolling launcher.

The MX has run into major criticism from some members of Congress. They say the guidance system may not be reliable despite 17 successful test shots of what the air force says is the world's most accurate nuclear missile.

A commission of military and civilian experts appointed by Defence Secretary Caspar Weinberger met at the Pentagon on Monday to begin a study of the MX programme. But Mr. Weinberger has strongly supported the missile.

In a recent speech, he lashed out at "an extraordinarily misleading report" by the House Armed Services Committee on the missile, which the administration refers to as the "peacekeeper."

"The peacekeeper is the most accurate, reliable and capable missile ever built — anywhere," Mr. Weinberger said.

Indian troops fire at rebels after Sri Lankan massacre

COLOMBO (R) — Indian troops in Sri Lanka on Tuesday fired at gunmen of the Tamil Tigers militia group which massacred up to 75 people at the weekend, wounding one man and arresting him and two others, police said.

The shooting was the first tough action by the 8,000-strong Indian peacekeeping force since the Tigers ramaged through the eastern Batticaloa district on Sunday killing unarmed members of rival militant groups on Sunday.

"I don't know if this is a new policy by the Indians to open fire at armed men, or whether it is just an isolated incident," Batticaloa Police Chief Nimal De Silva told Reuters by telephone.

"But they've assured me that the killings will end," he said after talks with the brigadier commanding Indian troops in Batticaloa.

Indian officers declined to comment, but De Silva said an Indian patrol shot at armed Tigers militants dragging away a member of the rival People's Liberation Organisation of Tamil Eelam (PLOTE) at Eravur village just north of Batticaloa city.

The Indians arrested three others, one wounded in the legs, while the others fled, De Silva said.

He said more than 500 Indian troops and Sri Lankan police were patrolling Batticaloa district and garrisoning villages. More than 150 Tamil militants had taken refuge from the Tigers with police, he added.

The Indian troops, sent to Sri Lanka to enforce a July 29 peace pact that ended four years fighting between Tamil separatists and government troops, have been embarrassed by clashes between the Tamils that are delaying the peace process.

A total of nearly 150 Tamil militants have now died in two weeks of fighting between the Tigers, the most powerful Tamil force, and their rivals in the north and east.

Since the peace pact, the Tigers' demand for control of a new provisional administration of the north and east has further angered other groups and brought the peace process to a virtual halt.

The repeated clashes between the groups, and the failure of the Indian troops to try to stop them, have caused mounting concern for the seven-week-old agreement signed by Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi and Sri Lankan President Junius Jayewardene.

Afghan rebels shoot down plane; 15 killed

MOSCOW (R) — All 15 people aboard an Afghan transport plane were killed when it was shot down by guerrillas while preparing to land at Kunduz airport near the Soviet border, the Soviet News Agency TASS said on Monday.

The plane, an Antonov-26 carrying six crew members and nine passengers, crashed in flames after being hit by rockets over the northern Afgab town on Sunday.

Six people were killed on Sept. 1 when another Antonov-26 was hit by rebels as it was about to land in the eastern Khost region.

Afghan rebels fighting to overthrow the Soviet-backed Kabul government have used U.S.-made Stinger and British Blowpipe ground-to-air missiles to attack Afghan aircraft.

The Soviet army newspaper Krasnaya Zvezda said earlier this month that rebel attacks on Antonov planes had killed 143 people this year.

Soviet officials have acknowledged heavy aircraft losses in recent weeks, blaming the damage on the Western-supplied missiles.

The Soviet Union, which has an estimated 115,000 soldiers in

Afghanistan, intervened in 1979 to back the Communist government.

Afghan guerrillas fired U.S.-made rockets into the eastern Afghan city of Jalalabad killing five people and critically wounding 11, the official Kabul Radio reported on Monday.

The radio, monitored by Islamabad, said the rebels fired the ground-to-ground rockets on Sunday night into a residential area of Jalalabad, capital of Nangarhar province bordering Pakistan.

The dead included children and women, it said.

Indonesian militants reportedly planned to kill U.S. envoy

JAKARTA (R) — Four Islamic extremists have admitted plotting to kill the United States ambassador to Jakarta because they believed he was anti-Muslim, a public prosecutor said.

The independent daily Kompas quoted prosecutor Hatta Nasution on Tuesday as saying the four defendants had admitted during preliminary investigations that they planned to kill Ambassador Paul Wolfowitz sometime in 1986.

"Two of the defendants had admitted that they went to Jakarta in 1986 where they met two other militia leaders who gave them a knife and told them to kill the ambassador," Nasution told a district court on Saturday.

The two defendants, Iskandar Achmad and Taher Yaneb, denied the charge, saying that they had no knowledge of the assassina-

sination plan, but prosecutor Nasution said they had earlier admitted their involvement in the plot.

"The defendants had admitted that they wanted to kill the U.S. ambassador because he was against the Muslim religion," Nasution was quoted by Kompas as telling the presiding judge.

Their trial, which opened last week, is taking place in Sigli, a town in the predominantly Muslim province of Aceh in northern Sumatra. It is one of several new trials of Muslim militants accused of involvement in subversion in several parts of Indonesia.

The four defendants have already been tried on charges of instigating riots and trying to kill non-Muslims in Aceh, whom they considered infidels. The judge is still to announce his verdict in that trial.

U.S. firm developing 'smokeless' cigarette

NEW YORK (R) — The U.S. tobacco company RJR Nabisco has said it was developing a "smokeless" cigarette but kept details of the secretive project to a minimum and gave no firm date when it will go on sale.

Company executive E.A. Horrigan told a news conference the cigarette was still being tested "under the strictest security possible" and a limited launch was due next year.

"The cigarette is based on technology that heats rather than burns tobacco to provide smokers with tobacco taste and satisfaction," said Horrigan.

"It looks, lights and smokes like other cigarettes, but produces no ash and virtually no sidestream smoke after the first few puffs," he said.

The smoke exhaled by the smoker dissipates rapidly. In addition, the cigarette, when lying flat, is unlikely to ignite most materials," he said.

Other major tobacco companies are also said to be speeding millions of dollars in a race to market a smokeless cigarette, which analysts said could be a boon to a slow-growing industry that has been hampered by health concerns.

The American Lung Association quickly labelled the project a "desperate attempt... to reverse the growing social taboo against smoking in public."

"We are especially alarmed at the possibility that young people may be encouraged by this marketing ploy to take up the smoking habit if they are duped into thinking this is a safer way to 'smoke' a cigarette," the association said.

Horrigan said the new cigarette eliminated 90 per cent of the compounds associated with health problems in regular cigarettes but added:

"We are not saying this is a safe or safer cigarette." But industry analysts said that even if the cigarette fails to lessen health concerns, it will be a strong product in light of widening restrictions on smoking.

2 Taiwan journalists arrive in China

PEKING (R) — The first two Taiwan journalists to make a reporting trip to China since the 1949 Communist takeover said on Tuesday they had been promised complete freedom of action and did not fear imprisonment on their return.

Li Yung-Teh, 33, and Hsu Lu, 30, reporters of the Independence Evening News, arrived at Peking airport at 1 a.m., more than two and a half hours late, in defiance of a ban on the visit by the Taiwan government.

"Our purpose is to write about visiting relatives and touring in China," Li told 50 foreign and

Chinese journalists and television cameramen at Peking airport.

"We asked at the Chinese embassy in Tokyo and were promised complete freedom of action and no official welcome or guides. Our reports will be objective and accurate, which is the policy of our newspaper," he said.

He said the two decided on the trip about a week ago, as a duty to readers in Taiwan, the island where the Nationalists ousted from the mainland established themselves after the 1949 Communist revolutionary takeover in China.

Panel backs U.S. manned space station

WASHINGTON (R) — A National Research Council report has endorsed NASA's plans for a manned space station but expressed doubts that the space shuttle is up to the job of completing it.

The council urged the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) to develop more powerful solid rocket motors for the space shuttle so it can carry heavier loads to put the permanently-manned station in orbit by the mid-1990s.

Citing the prolonged grounding of the shuttle since the January 1986 Challenger accident in which all seven crew were killed, the panel of experts also "strongly recommended" that NASA construct an emergency rescue vehicle to prevent stranding space station crew members.

The National Research Council, organised by the National Academy of Sciences, is charged with examining questions of science and technology at the request of the government. The report released on Monday was commissioned by the White House and NASA and is likely to be highly influential.

NASA's plans call for sole reliance on the shuttle which would need about 19 flights to erect the

space station, an orbiting laboratory for scientists first announced by President Reagan in 1984.

The NASA plan is to use the shuttle to ferry supplies and crew and, in the event of emergency, to leave the eight occupants of the space station to await rescue by a shuttle sent from Earth.

The Soviet Union, which has had its two-person Mir space station in operation since February 1986, launched a rescue mission last month to bring back a Cosmonaut who registered abnormal heart rhythms. U.S. analysts say the problem may have been caused by the stress of being in space.

Aside from casting doubt on some key parts of the NASA plan, the panel headed by former Air Force Secretary Robert Seamans called the agency's overall proposal "reasonable" and a good compromise among competing ideas.

Seamans told a news conference the station was "the most ambitious and longby task NASA has ever undertaken."

"It will require tens of billions of dollars over a period of several decades," he said, adding that such a major space programme could not be developed "on the cheap" and must not be subjected

to political budget problems.

NASA issued a statement disagreeing with the panel's conclusion that reliance on the shuttle would be risky, saying it had cut weights and modified the building schedule to take into account the loss of the Challenger which left it with a fleet of four shuttles.

The agency also took issue with the panel's conclusion that NASA's cost estimate of \$14 billion for research and development of the station could be \$2.9 billion less than is actually needed to pay for more testing and back-up equipment. NASA said it has adequately accounted for this already.

The report said "it is dangerous and misleading to assume that there will be no (shuttle) losses and thus fail to plan for such events."

"We should expect to lose an orbiter — not necessarily with accompanying loss of life — about once every 5-8 years," the report said, urging production of another shuttle spacecraft in addition to a replacement for the Challenger.

The committee also recommended that NASA plan to provide logistics support to the space station using rockets to back up the shuttle.

COLUMNS 7&8

Pakistani troops to flush out bandits

KARACHI (R) — Pakistan has sent helicopter-borne troops to hunt down bandits after a kidnapping and murder spree, a government spokesman said on Tuesday. He said the bandits operated from a forest on both sides of the River Indus in Sind Province. A local official at Dadu said soldiers had arrested 40 people believed either to be bandits or people who had harboured them. Other local leaders said the criminals had killed more than 50 people since martial law was lifted in Pakistan in December 1985 after over nine years of army rule. They said the bandits had kidnapped two major industrialists in the past four months, releasing them after hefty ransom payments. Residents of Dadu went on strike to press demands for protection after the bandits raided the town last week and kidnapped six people in front of thousands of townfolk. The government has used troops several times in the past three years against bandits, who are active in southern Pakistan. But new recruits, some well-educated, have joined the gangs. Officials say many are armed with automatic rifles smuggled from neighbouring Afghanistan, where guerrillas are fighting the Soviet-backed government.

China punishes 42 for corruption

BEKING (R) — Forty-two officials in the central Chinese city of Pingdingshan have been arrested or disciplined for bribery since a swoop on corruption began in July, the official New China News Agency said on Tuesday. The agency said 22 Communist Party members were among those guilty of involvement in a total 77,000 yuan (\$20,800) worth of bribery cases. All six staff in one local tax office were accused of taking bribes, it said. Two tax officials have been arrested while others have been expelled from the party or disciplined, the agency added without giving details.

Norwegians offered holiday to polar ice

TRONDHEIM, Norway (R) — As if Norwegians don't get enough snow and ice at home, an enterprising tour operator is offering his countrymen a unique holiday to sip champagne while flying over the Arctic and Antarctic wastes. Billed as the world's first tourist trip to both the North and South Poles, the holiday will cost each traveller \$6,500, travel agent Tor Hukkelaas told Reuters on Monday. The 12-day break to both ends of the Earth will start from this central Norwegian town on Dec. 8 — when most of the country is gripped by the savage Nordic winter. The plane will carry up to 250 people, and stopovers are planned in Hawaii, Rio De Janeiro, and Tasmania. "We only just offered it and we've had about 40 bookings already," Hukkelaas said.

Mark Phillips pleads guilty to speeding

NEWBURY, England (AP) — Captain Mark Phillips, Queen Elizabeth II's son-in-law, pleaded guilty Monday to breaking the speed limit by driving more than 100 mph (160 kph). Phillips, husband of Princess Anne, made the admission and offered an apology in a letter to a magistrate's court at Newbury, 100 kilometres west of London. Police stopped Phillips on July 28 for driving 103.6 mph (165.8 kph) in the London-bound lane of the M4 highway, which has a speed limit of 70 mph (112 kph). Magistrate Michael Druce adjourned the case until Sept. 30, saying the court would have to consider withdrawing Phillips' driving licence. Phillips' driving has already gotten him into trouble. In November 1985 he was convicted of careless driving and fined £100 (then \$143).

Circus elephant crushes man

GUNNEDAH, Australia (R) — A circus elephant crushed a man to death on Monday but went on to perform its normal big top routine, police said. The man, a circus worker in his 50s, climbed into an enclosure where several beasts were tethered though he did not normally deal with elephants, Sergeant John Wilkinson of the northern New South Wales town of Gunnedah told reporters. "We don't know what he was doing there," he said. "He didn't work with the elephants and wasn't known to them so it would have been a little like sticking your hand into a lion's cage." The elephant hurled the man to the ground, doubled its trunk and crushed him to death before horrified spectators. The elephant then just walked away, Wilkinson said, and about an hour later took part in its usual routine. "During the show one of the reporters from the local radio station rode it without any trouble whatsoever," Wilkinson said. "Apparently it's a well-behaved elephant and this was completely out of character."

Turkish police seize \$20m worth of drugs

ISTANBUL, Turkey (AP) — Police have seized a cache of heroin worth an estimated \$20 million on the street and destined for sale in Western Europe, authorities have announced. Istanbul Police Chief Ismail Taskafa told the Associated Press that 170 kilograms of heroin was found and 11 people arrested during a drug bust Saturday at a farmhouse in the Istanbul suburbs. Materials and equipment used to produce the heroin were also found at the site, he said. Taskafa said the heroin was smuggled into Turkey from Pakistan and Iran, and was to be sold in Western Europe. Six Iranians were among those arrested, he added, while the other five were Turkish. Police suspect other members of the drug ring are operating abroad and have alerted their counterparts in several Western European countries via Interpol, said Taskafa. He would not identify those countries by name. Turkish authorities cracked down on opium production in 1975 when regulations were introduced limiting cultivation to only seven provinces and forbidding farmers from extracting opium gum from poppy pods. Opium is the raw material for heroin.

World's southernmost post office to close

WELLINGTON (R) — Mailing Christmas cards to friends in Antarctica will be a bit more difficult this year, as the world's southernmost post office will be closed. New Zealand Post said on Monday that it would close the branch at its Scott Base in Antarctica next month, because it did not do enough business and cost too much to run. The three staff would return to New Zealand.

Hard rock vents Polish steam

WARSAW, Poland (AP) — The lead singer of the band Perfect belted out the lyric "Don't be afraid of this," and 30,000 fans screamed "Jaruzelski," to complete the phrase and taunt Poland's Communist leader. At Poland's biggest rock concert in history, the premier Polish rock group made its Warsaw comeback four years after disbanding in frustration over battles with the censors, bans on performing and the pittance it received for work that made the government big money. Besides gibes at Gen. Wojciech Jaruzelski, enthusiastic fans danced around the playing field and lit torches made from rolled up copies of Communist Party newspapers during Perfect's three-hour Saturday night performance in the jammed Tenth Anniversary Stadium. Amid flashing strobe lights and swirling smoke, the quartet waited away the music blaring from two walls of loudspeakers. When the 50,000 watts of power were turned on, lights went out in some neighbourhoods near the stadium. Onstage, guitarist Zbigniew Holdys, Perfect's leader and composer, pranced around the stage in a long black coat with a big white "S" printed on the back. Asked before the concert whether the "S" stood for the outlawed Solidarity trade movement, whose heyday coincided with that of Perfect, Holdys replied: "People understand what it means." The fans laughed when Holdys joked that the band could play freely during the night because the cultural bureaucrats were in Moscow attending a festival on Polish culture. They clapped when the band played a rock version of "Yankee Doodle" with the stage bathed in red, white and blue lights. They also loudly applauded a new song, A Lot Of Us, in which the band sang: "There are a lot of us and a few of them."

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF
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2 + 1 = 2

Both vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH
♠ J 3 2
♥ 6 5
♦ A 4 3
♣ Q 9 8 7 6
WEST
♠ K 10 8 4
♥ 7 2
♦ Q J 10 9
♣ 10 5 4 3
EAST
♠ 9 7 6 5
♥ 7 4 3
♦ 8 5 2
♣ A K J

SOUTH
♠ A Q
♥ A Q J 10 9 8 7
♦ K 7 6
♣ 3

The bidding:
South West North East
1 ♠ Pass 1 NT Pass
4 ♠ Pass Pass Pass
Opening lead: Queen of ♣

Dear Omar:
I've heard nothing but good things about your videotape, *Play Bridge with Omar Sharif*. As a matter of fact, the President of the American Contract Bridge League, Tommy Sanders, called to say he felt every bridge player should have one. I agree. The hands are well chosen and the whole production is a joy. (Available from PSI, 210 E. 44th St., New York, N.Y. 10017. \$39.95 postpaid.)

This is one of my favorite hands. I like it because it is simple, it illus-

trates a good point, and many players would overlook the winning line. The auction is straightforward, and a perfectly normal four-heart contract is the result.

After West's textbook lead of the queen of diamonds, the first temptation to resist is to win with the ace in dummy and take a trump finesse. Even if it wins, you more than likely will have to lose a trump trick since it is against the odds for the suit to divide 2-2. Also, a spade finesse is futile: you have two natural spade tricks and even if the finesse succeeds you still will score only two tricks in the suit.

All you need do to find the winning line is count your tricks. You are due two spades, six hearts and two diamonds for a total of 10. You must simply make sure of getting them and to do so you need the ace of diamonds in dummy as an entry.

Win the first trick in hand, cash the ace of trumps and then lead the ace and queen of spades. That sets up dummy's jack while the ace of diamonds is still on the table as an entry. You will discard your losing diamond on the high spade and hold your losers to one trick in each suit except diamonds.

Simple but effective. I like the hand, and the cassette.

Sincerely,
Charles